

US009346162B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Hashiguchi et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,346,162 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 24, 2016**

(54) **ROBOT SYSTEM, CONTROL DEVICE OF ROBOT, AND ROBOT CONTROL DEVICE**

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(73) Assignee: **KABUSHIKI KAISHA YASKAWA DENKI**, Kitakyushu-Shi (JP)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 150 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/149,810**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 8, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0121837 A1 May 1, 2014

Related U.S. Application Data

(62) Division of application No. 13/221,868, filed on Aug. 30, 2011, now Pat. No. 8,650,965.

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Aug. 31, 2010	(JP)	2010-193717
Aug. 31, 2010	(JP)	2010-193718
Dec. 28, 2010	(JP)	2010-293843
Dec. 28, 2010	(JP)	2010-293844
Dec. 28, 2010	(JP)	2010-293845
Dec. 28, 2010	(JP)	2010-293846

(51) **Int. Cl.**
B25J 9/16 (2006.01)
B25J 9/00 (2006.01)
B25J 13/08 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **B25J 9/1633** (2013.01); **B25J 9/0087** (2013.01); **B25J 13/085** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC G01B 7/18; G05B 19/423; G01L 1/00; G01L 1/16; G01L 5/00; B25J 9/0083; B25J 9/1633; B62D 57/032
USPC 73/763; 901/46
See application file for complete search history.

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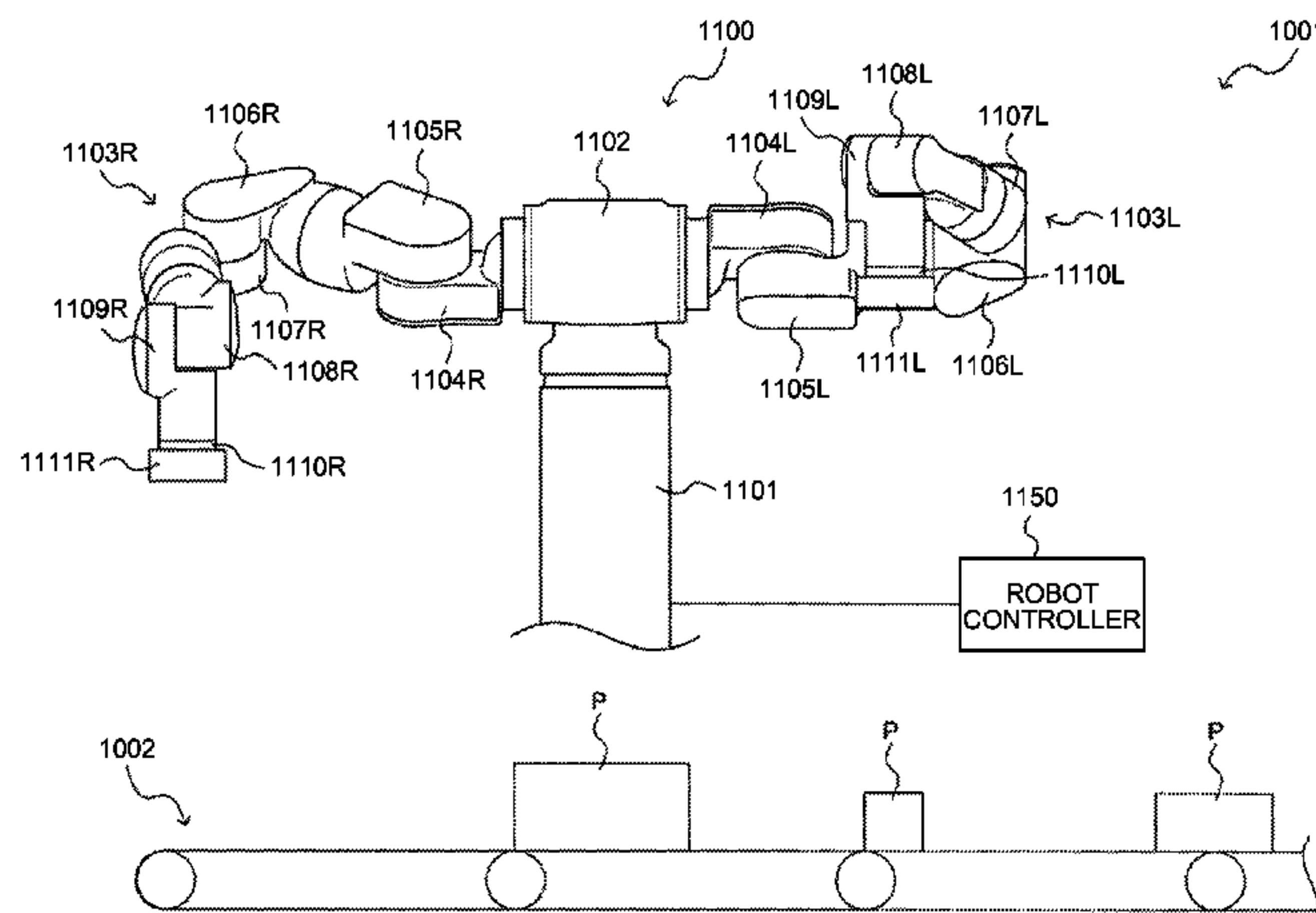
Primary Examiner — Lisa Caputo
Assistant Examiner — Octavia Hollington

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Mori & Ward, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A robot system includes a robot arm, one or more actuators that are provided in the robot arm to drive the robot arm, a sensor unit that detects an external force applied to at least one of the robot arm and the actuators, and a controller that controls an operation of each of the actuators and limits a torque instruction value for each of the actuators on the basis of a detection result of the sensor unit.

15 Claims, 55 Drawing Sheets



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FIG.1

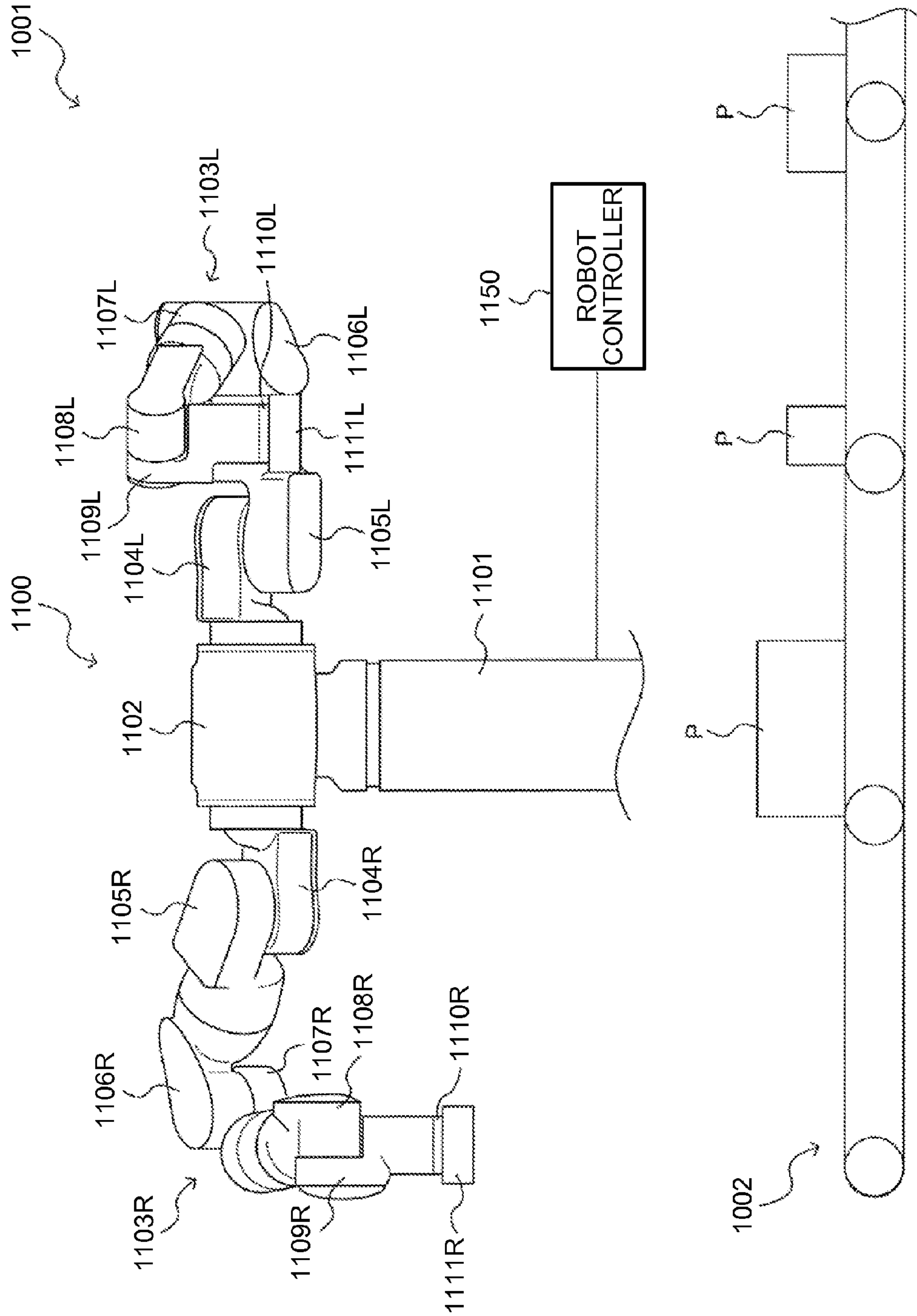


FIG.2

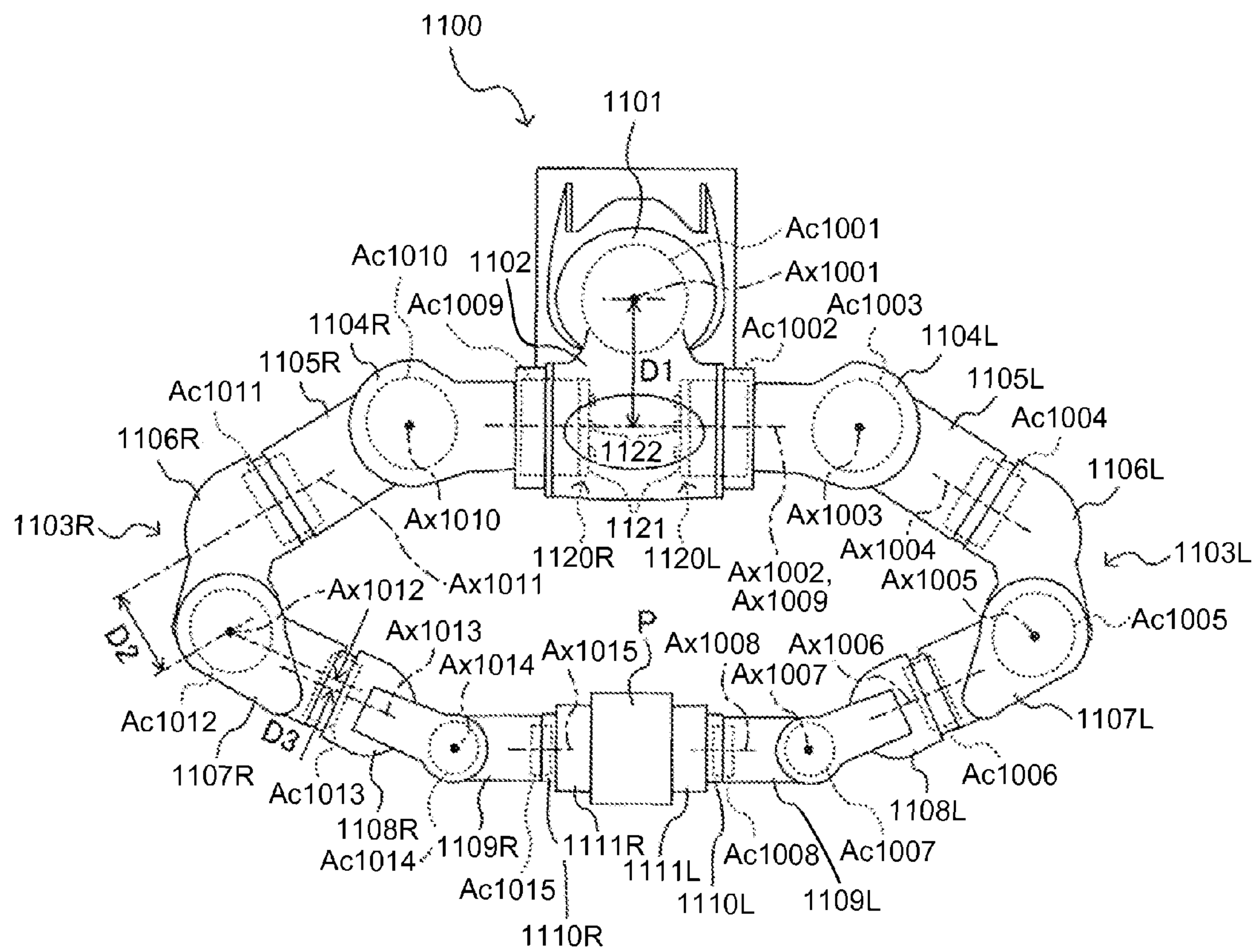


FIG.3

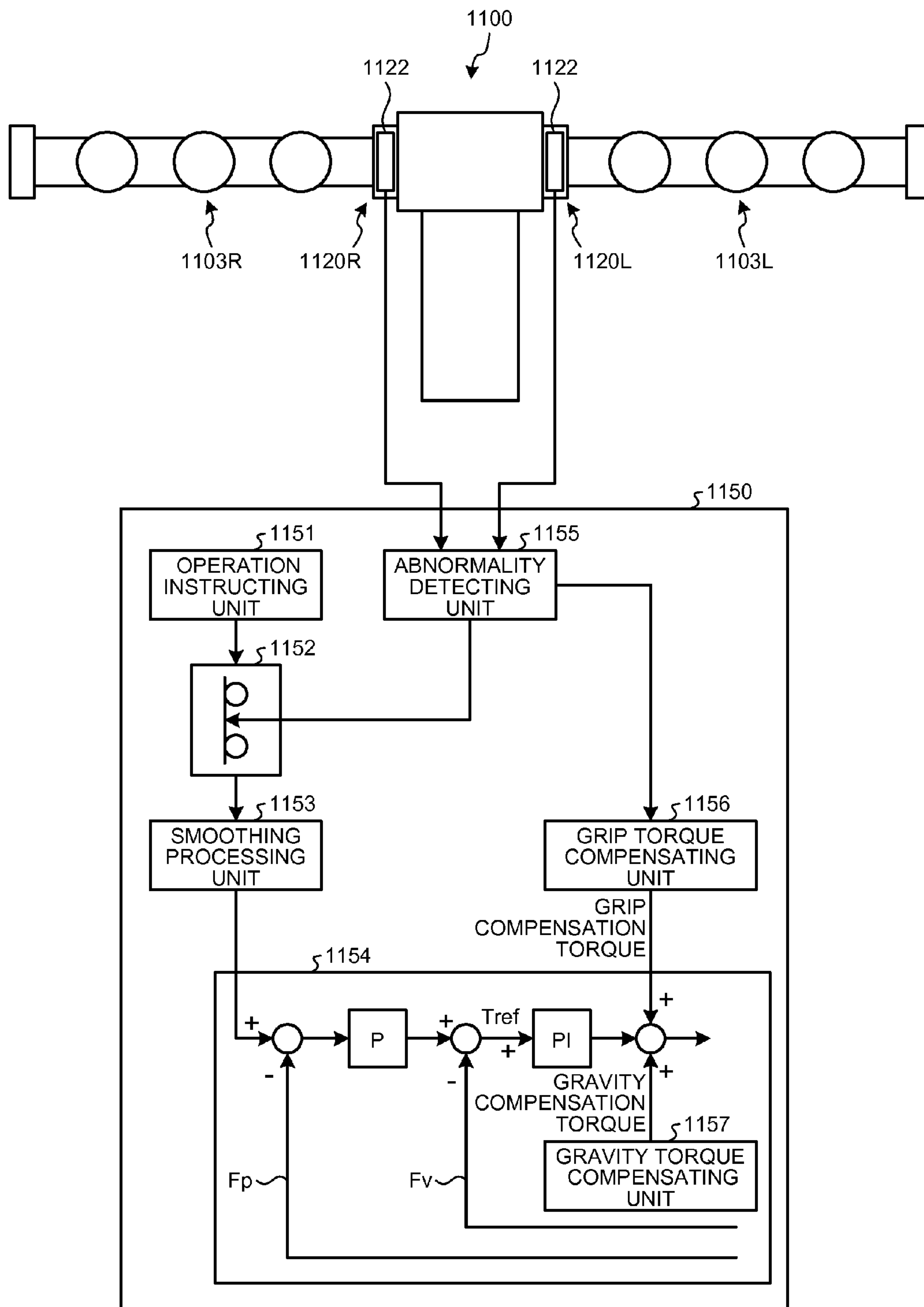


FIG. 4

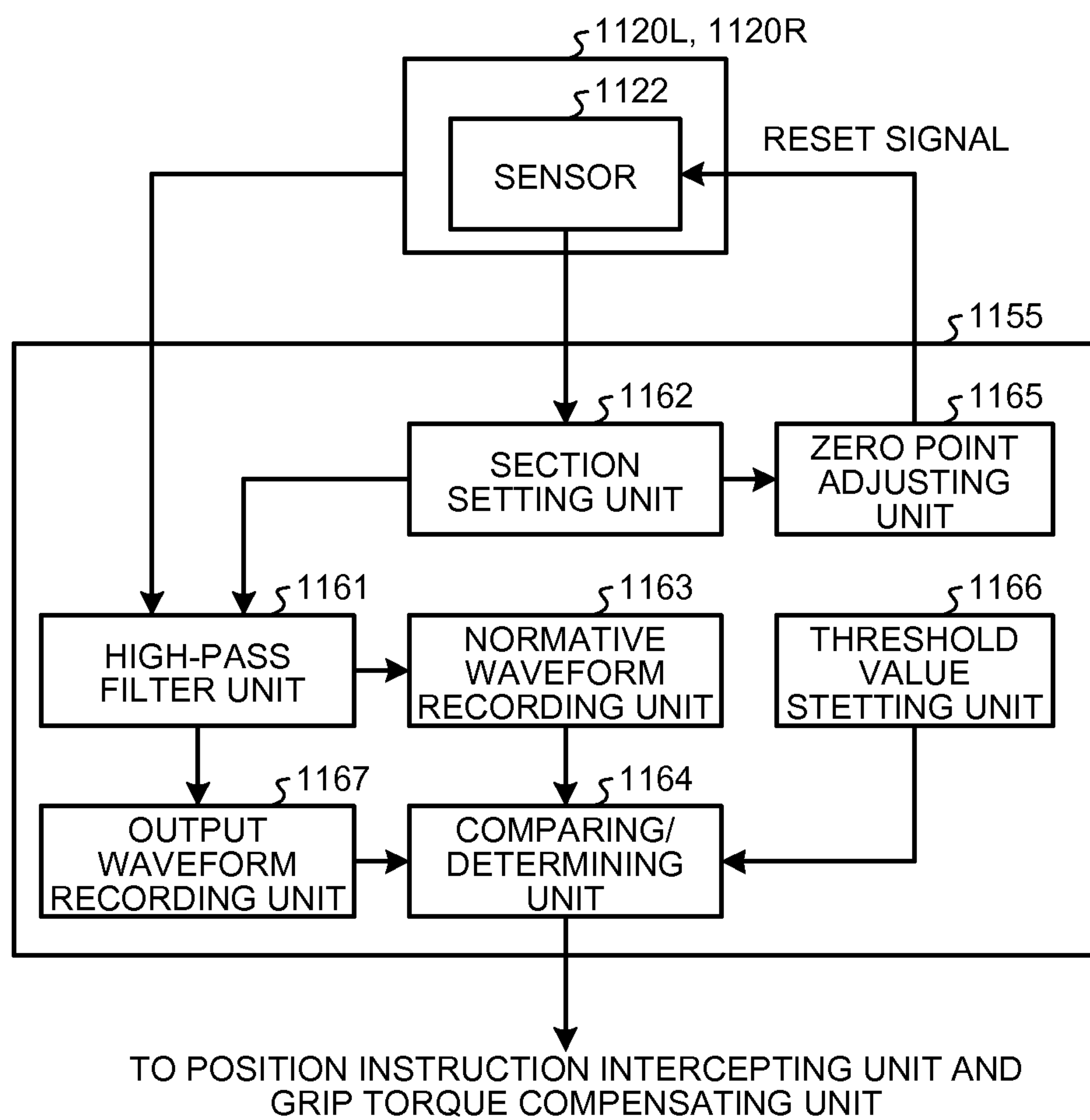


FIG.5

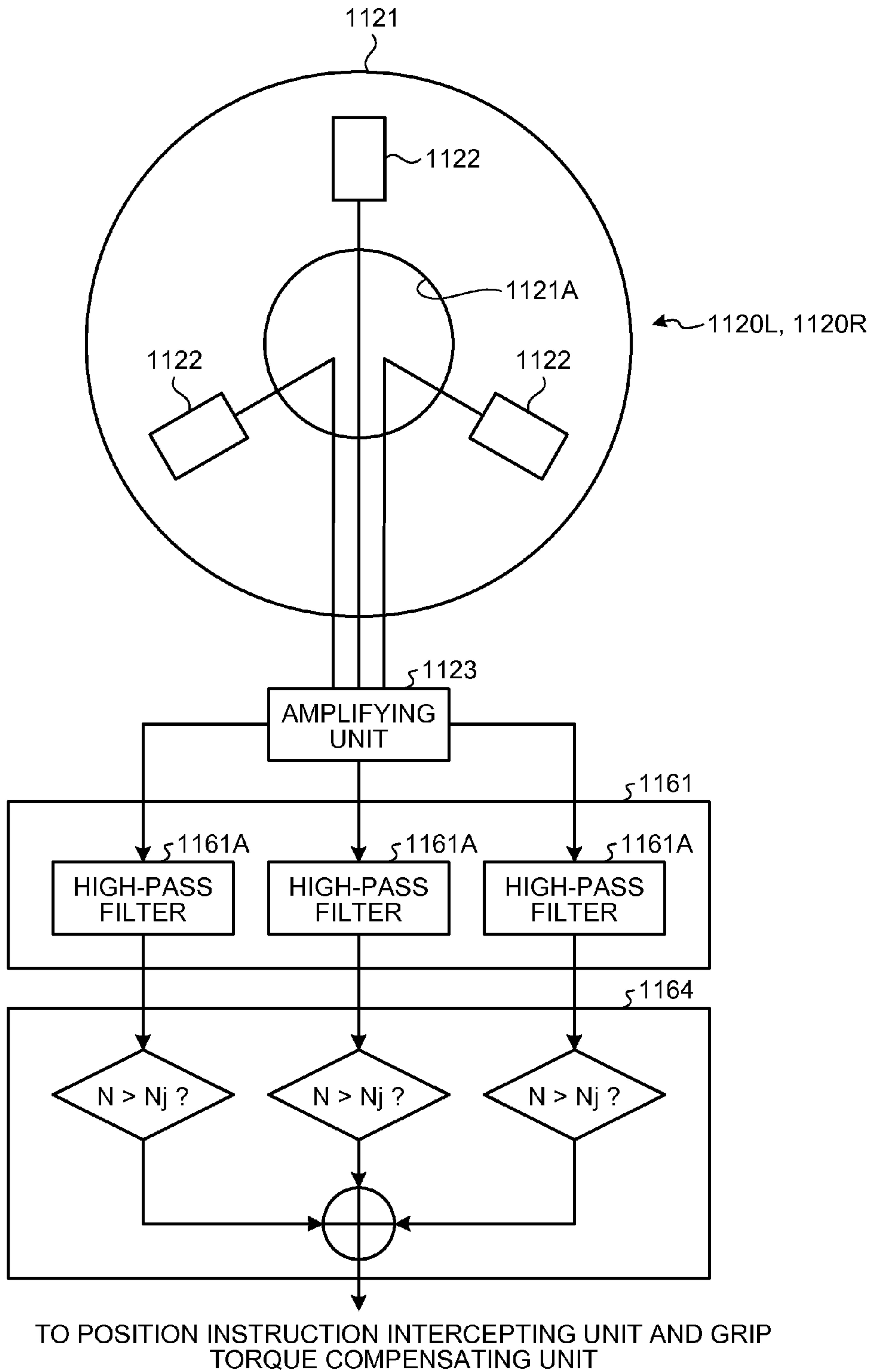


FIG.6A

AT THE TIME OF INSTRUCTING
(STATE IN WHICH THERE IS NO
ABNORMALITY IN ARMS)

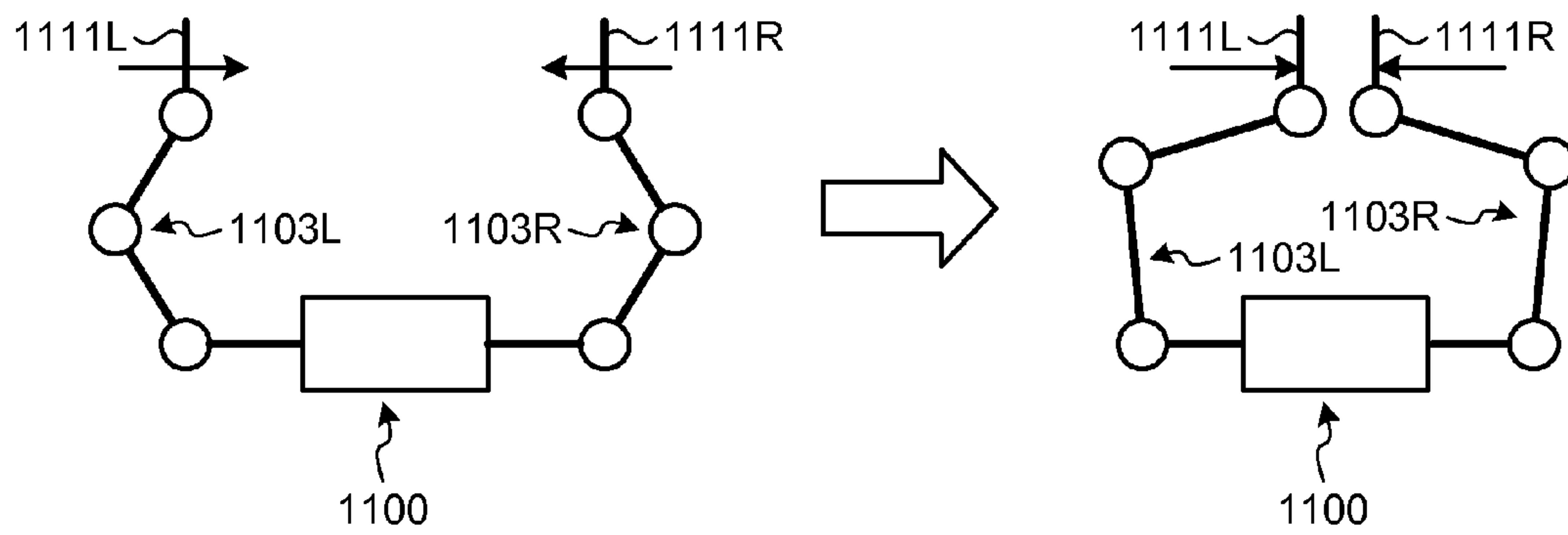


FIG.6B

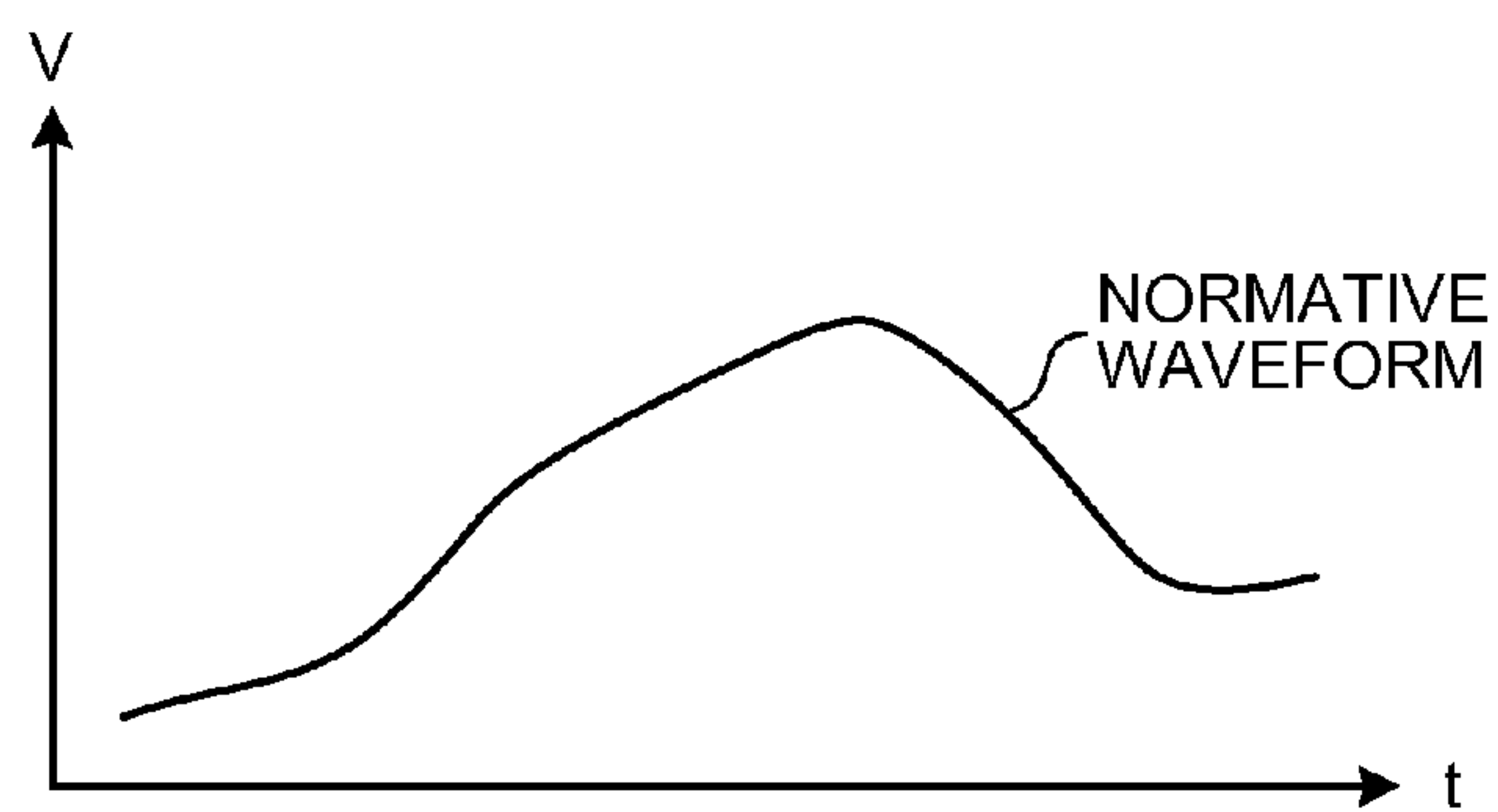


FIG.7A

AT THE TIME OF ACTIVATING
(STATE IN WHICH THERE IS ABNORMALITY IN ARMS)

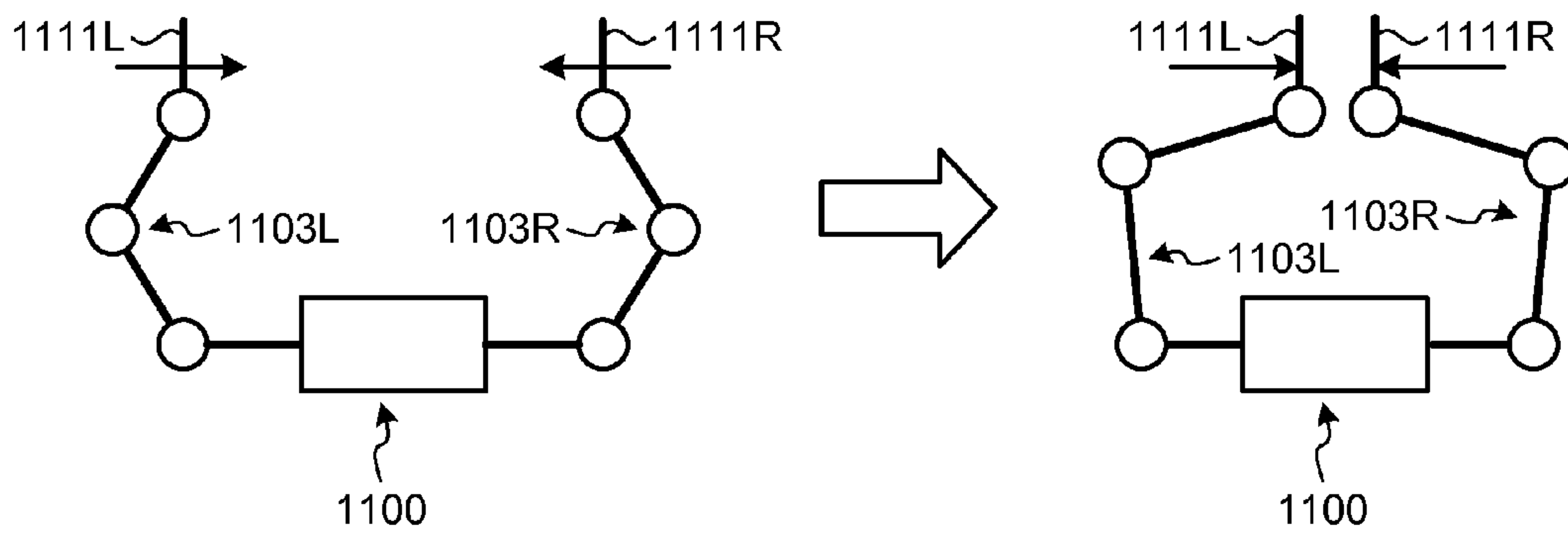


FIG.7B

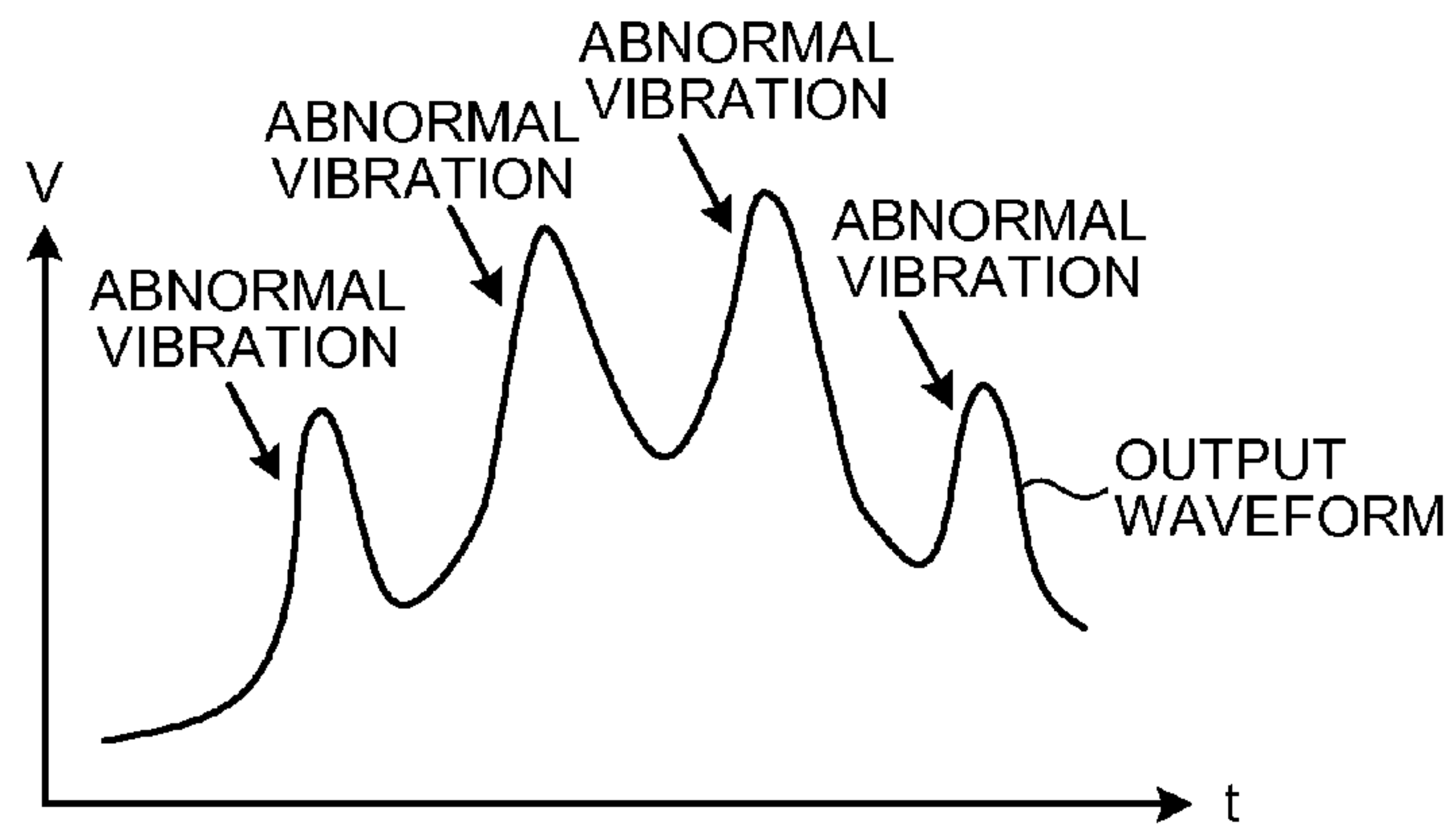


FIG.8A

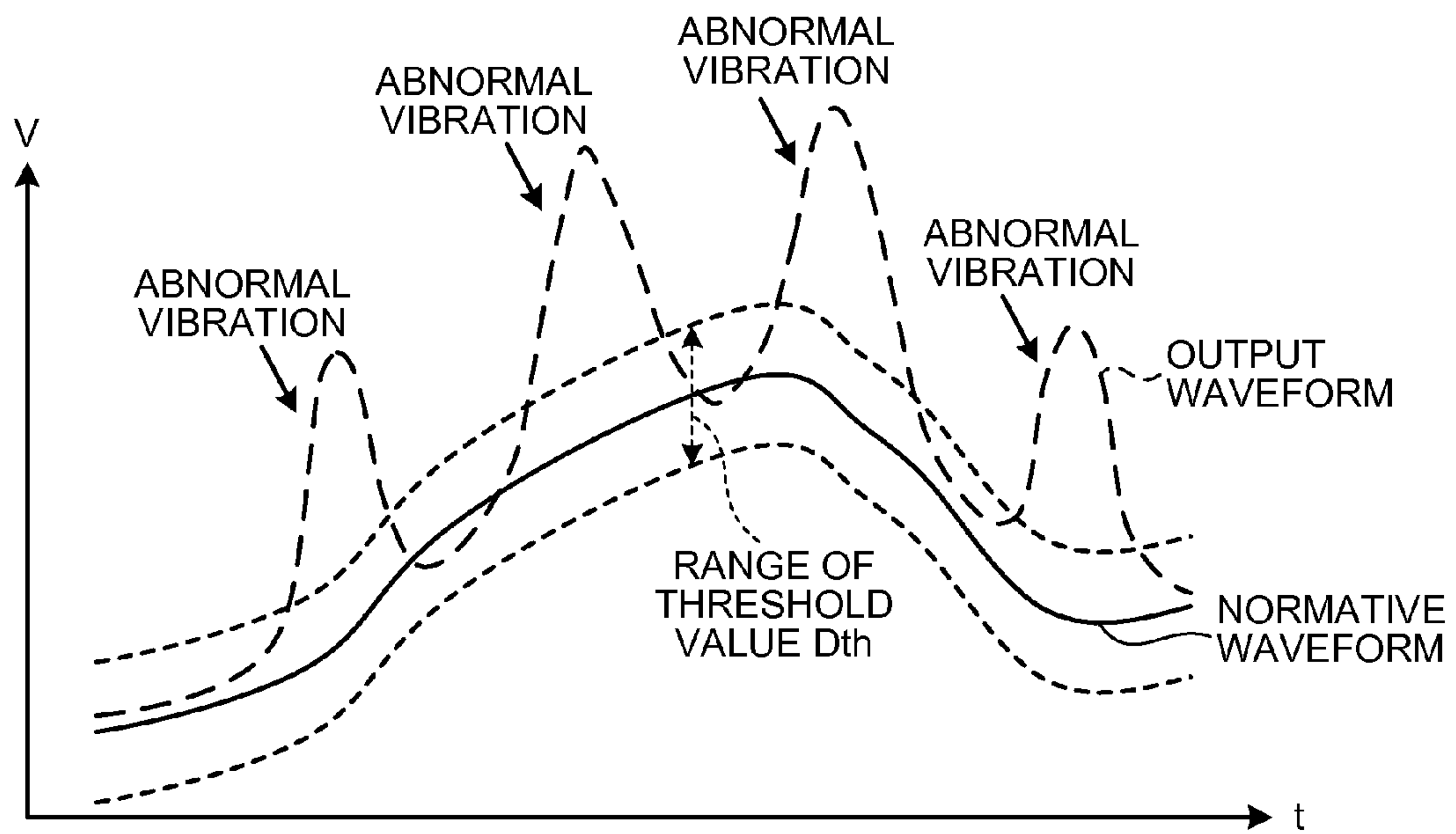


FIG.8B

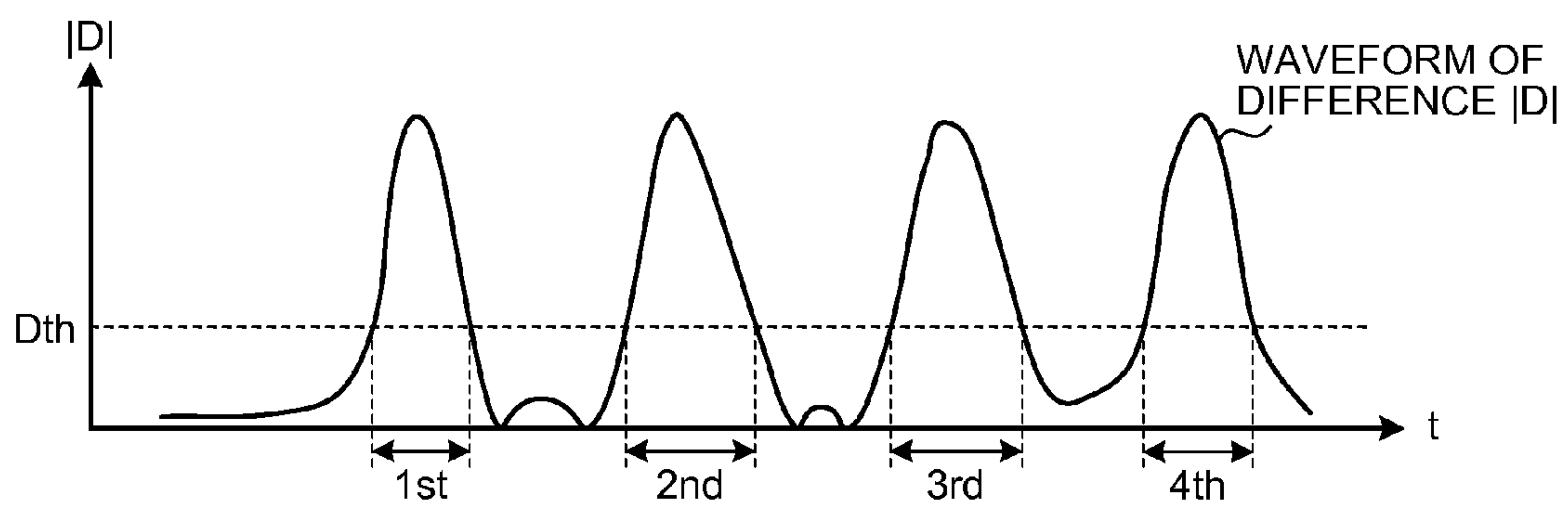


FIG.9

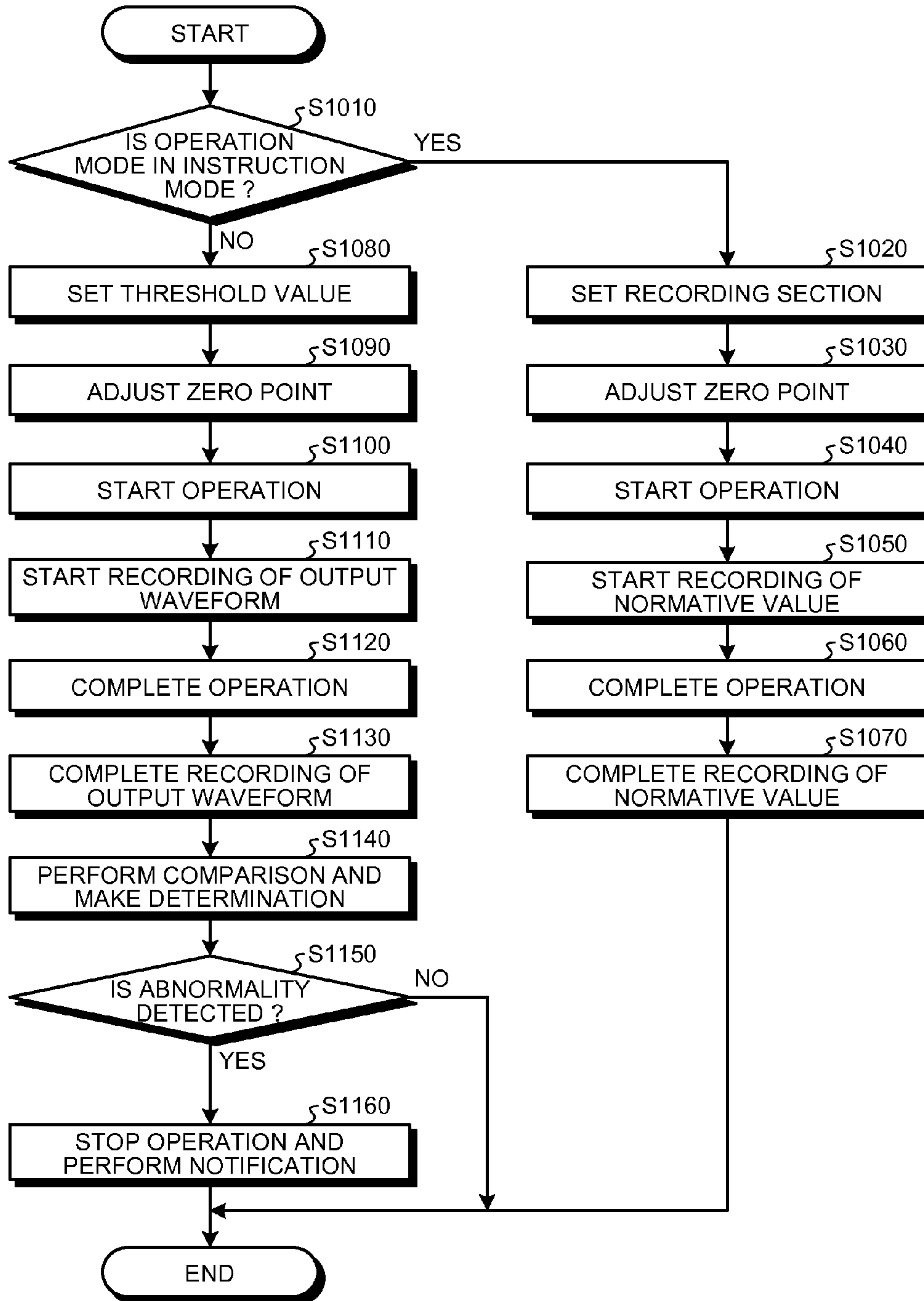


FIG.10

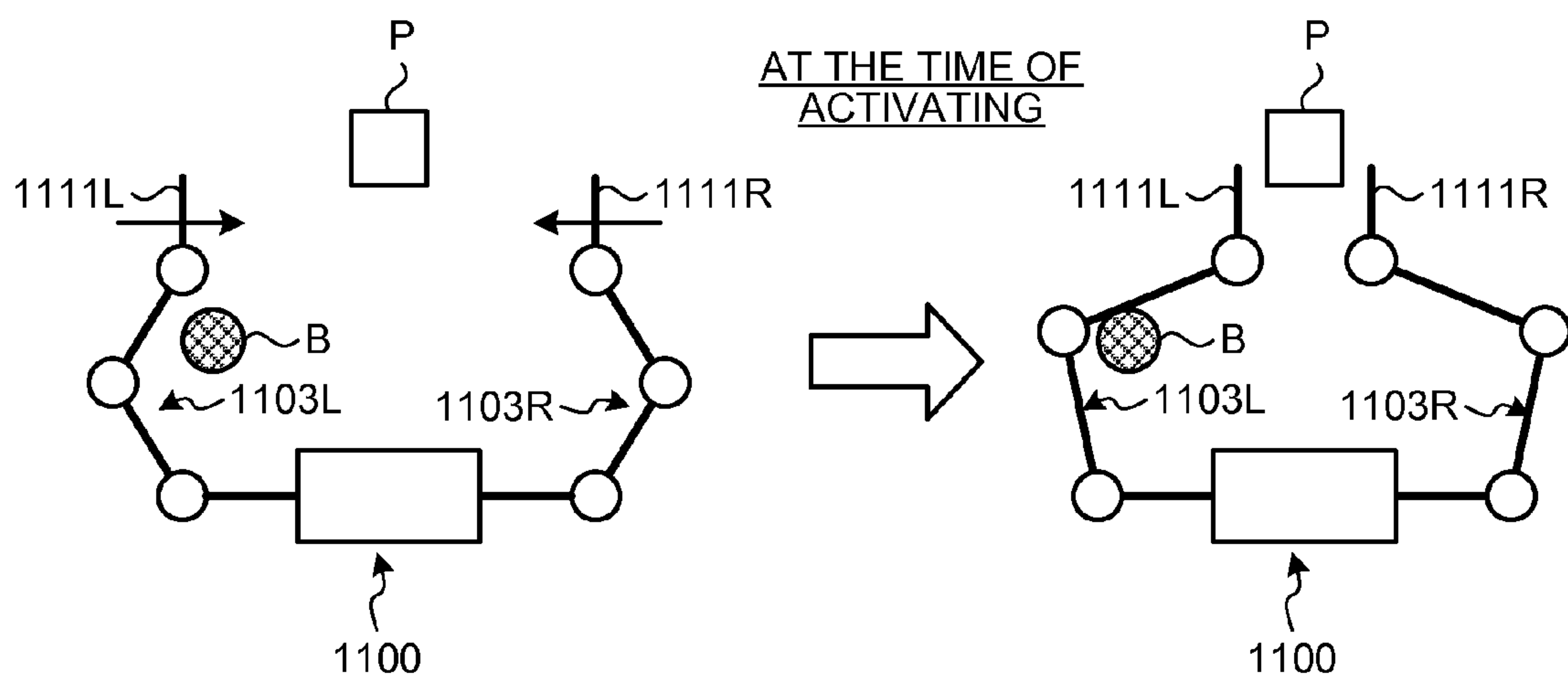


FIG. 11

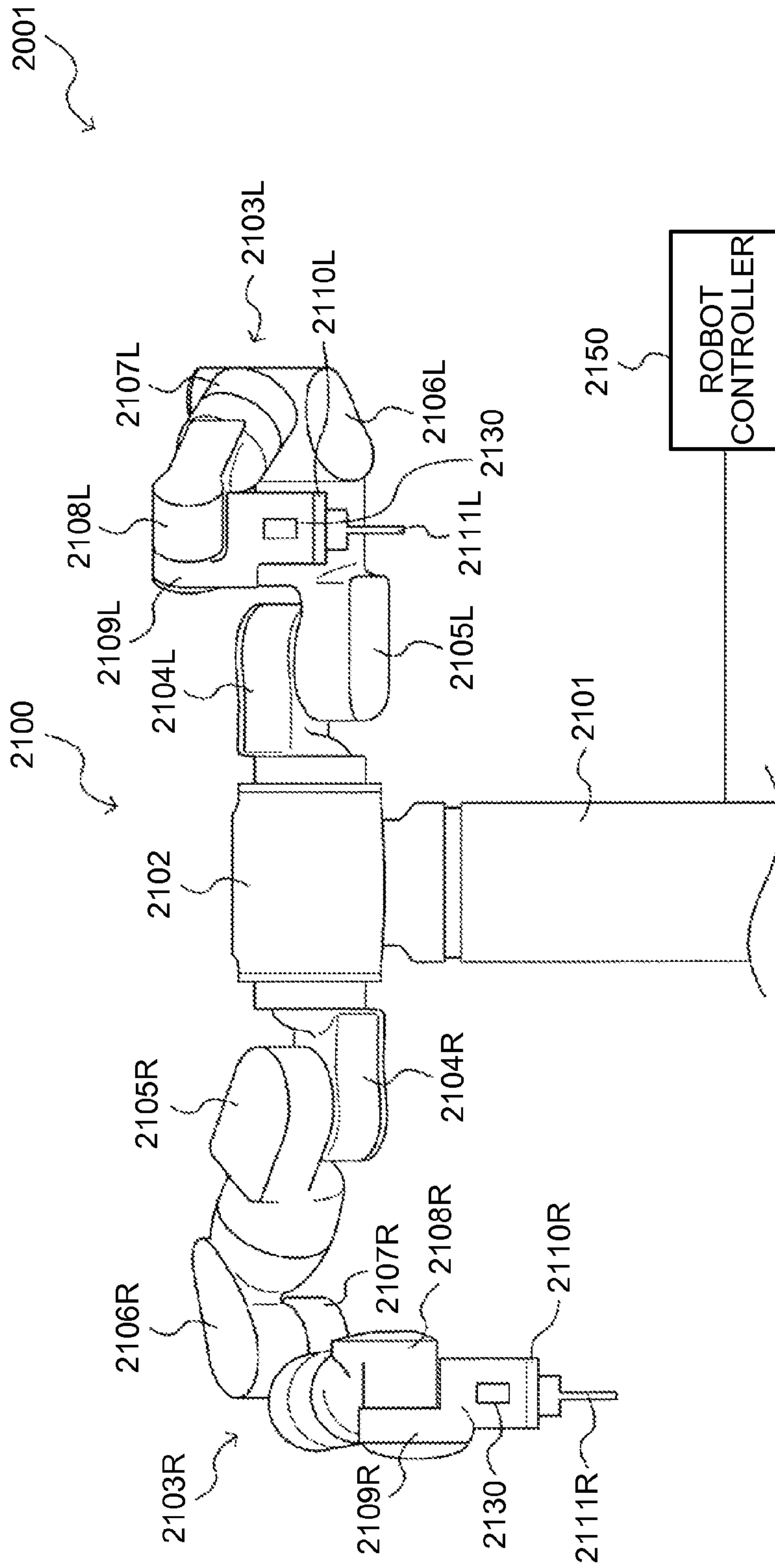


FIG.12

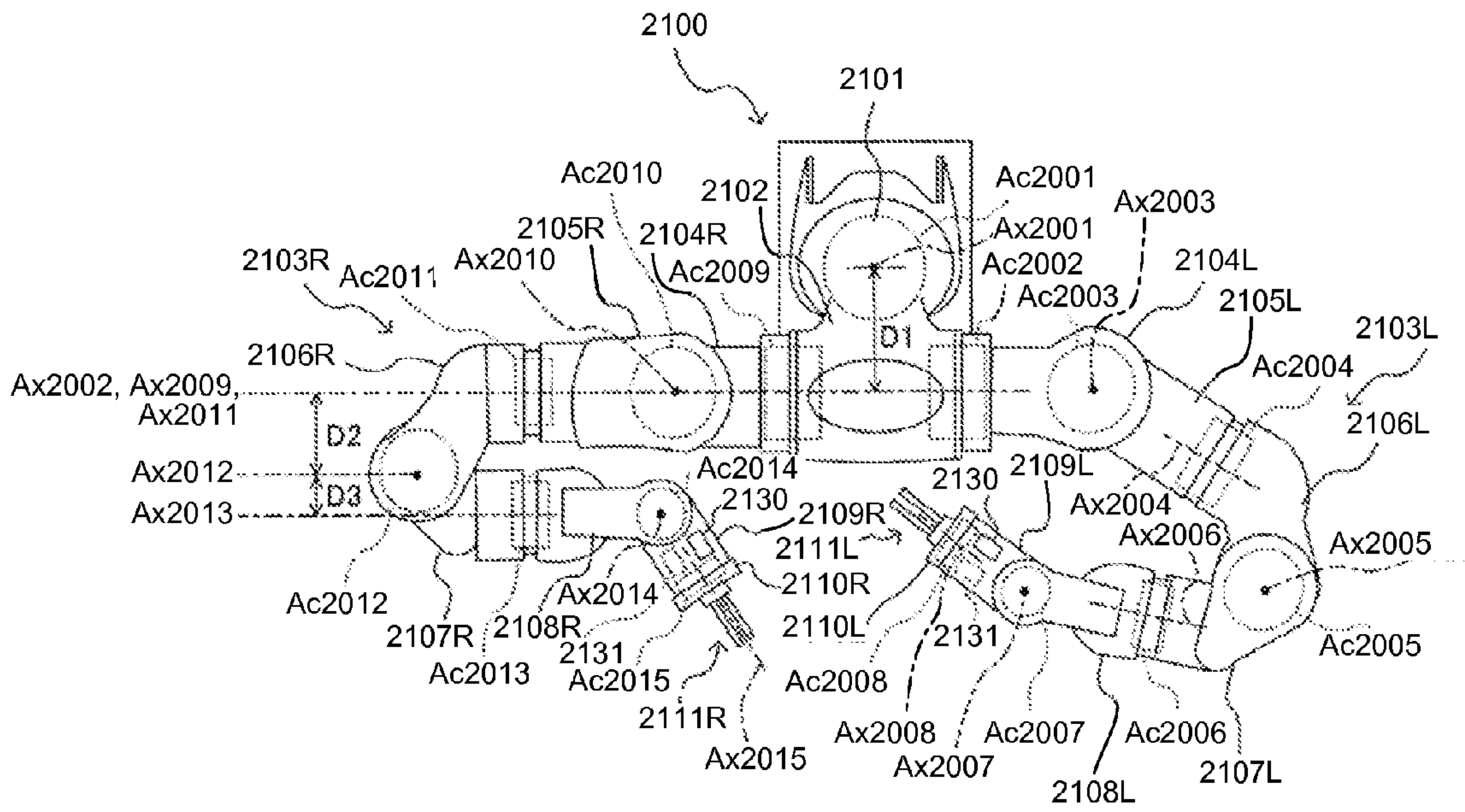


FIG.13

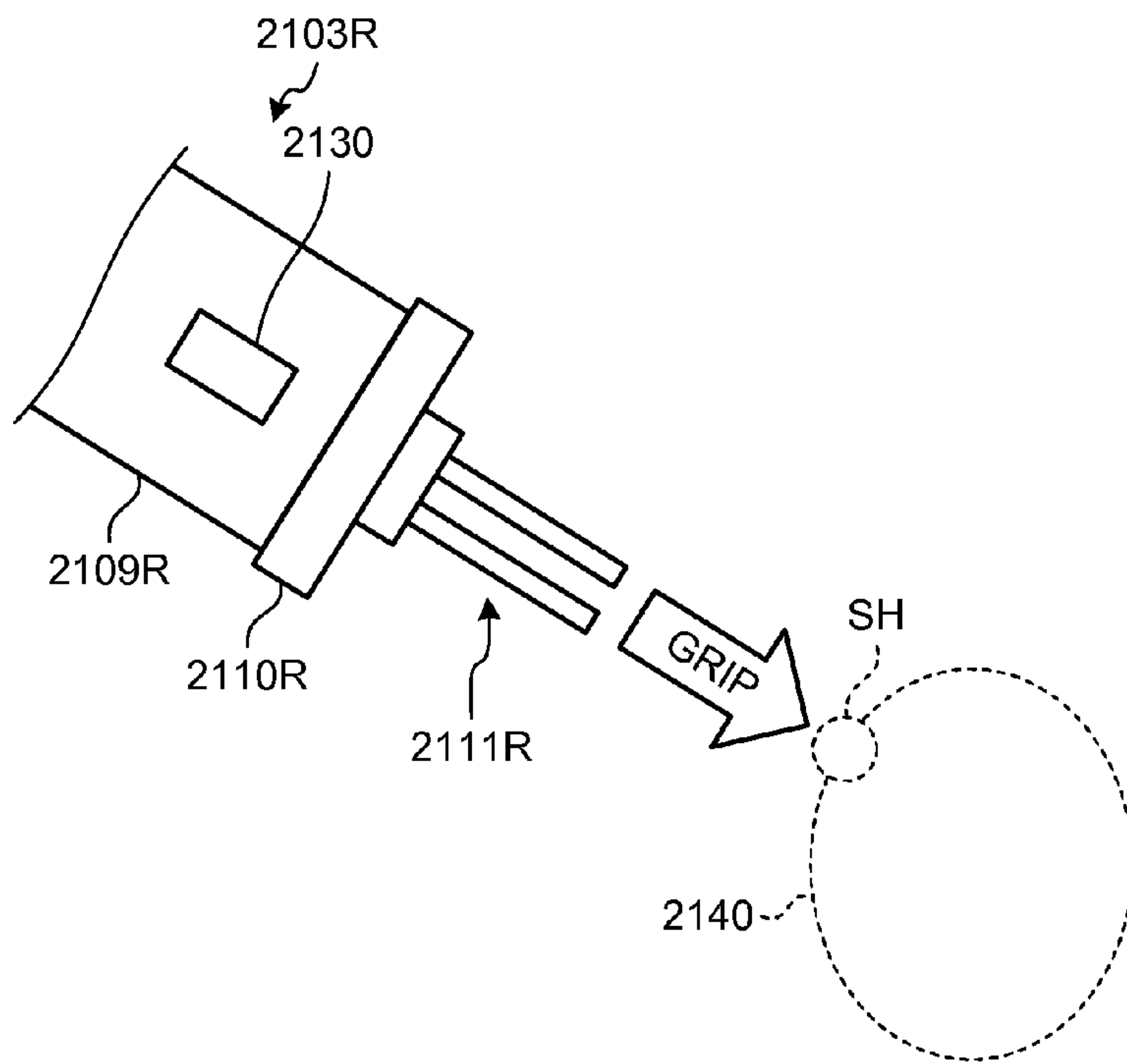


FIG. 14

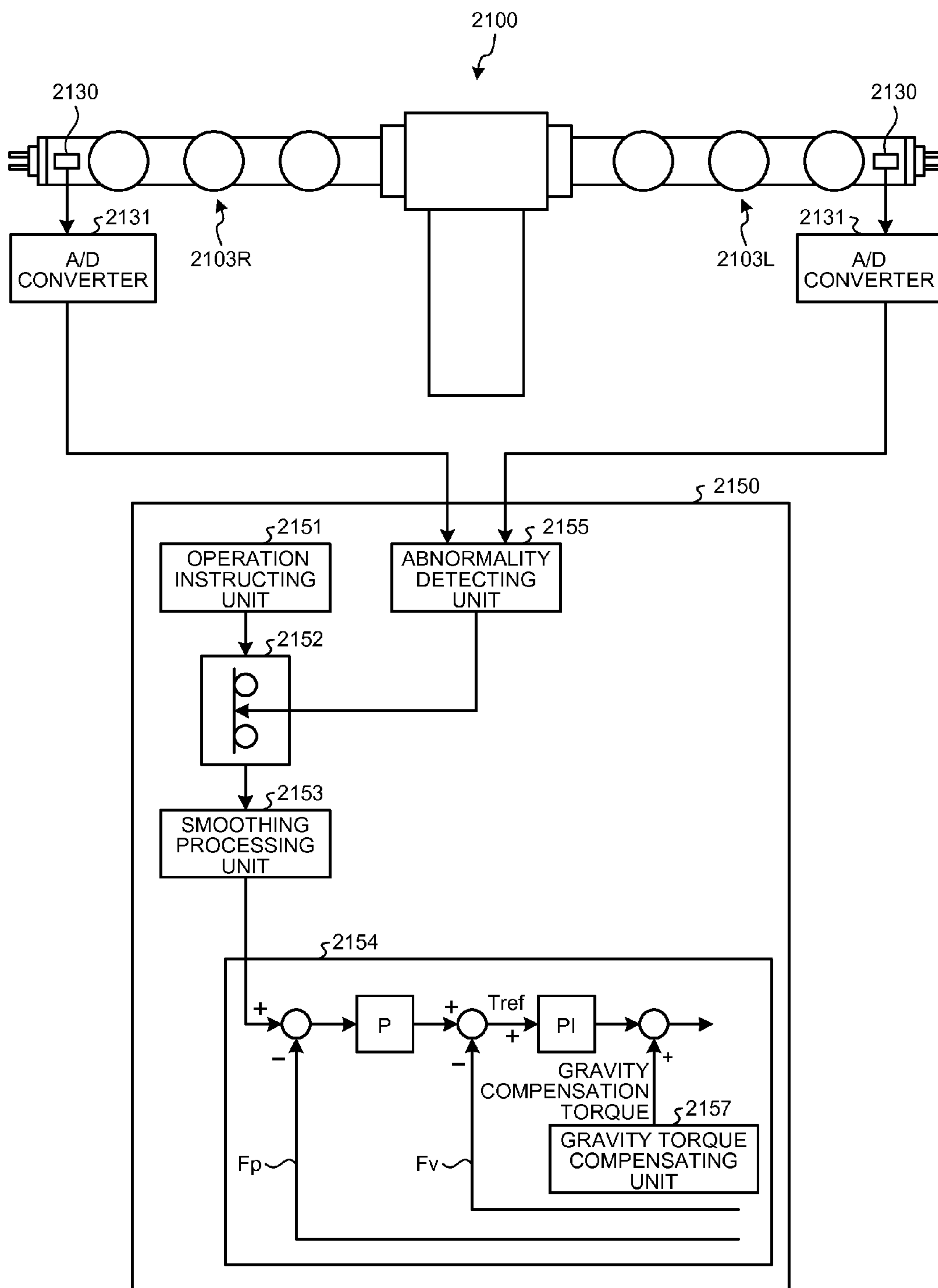


FIG.15

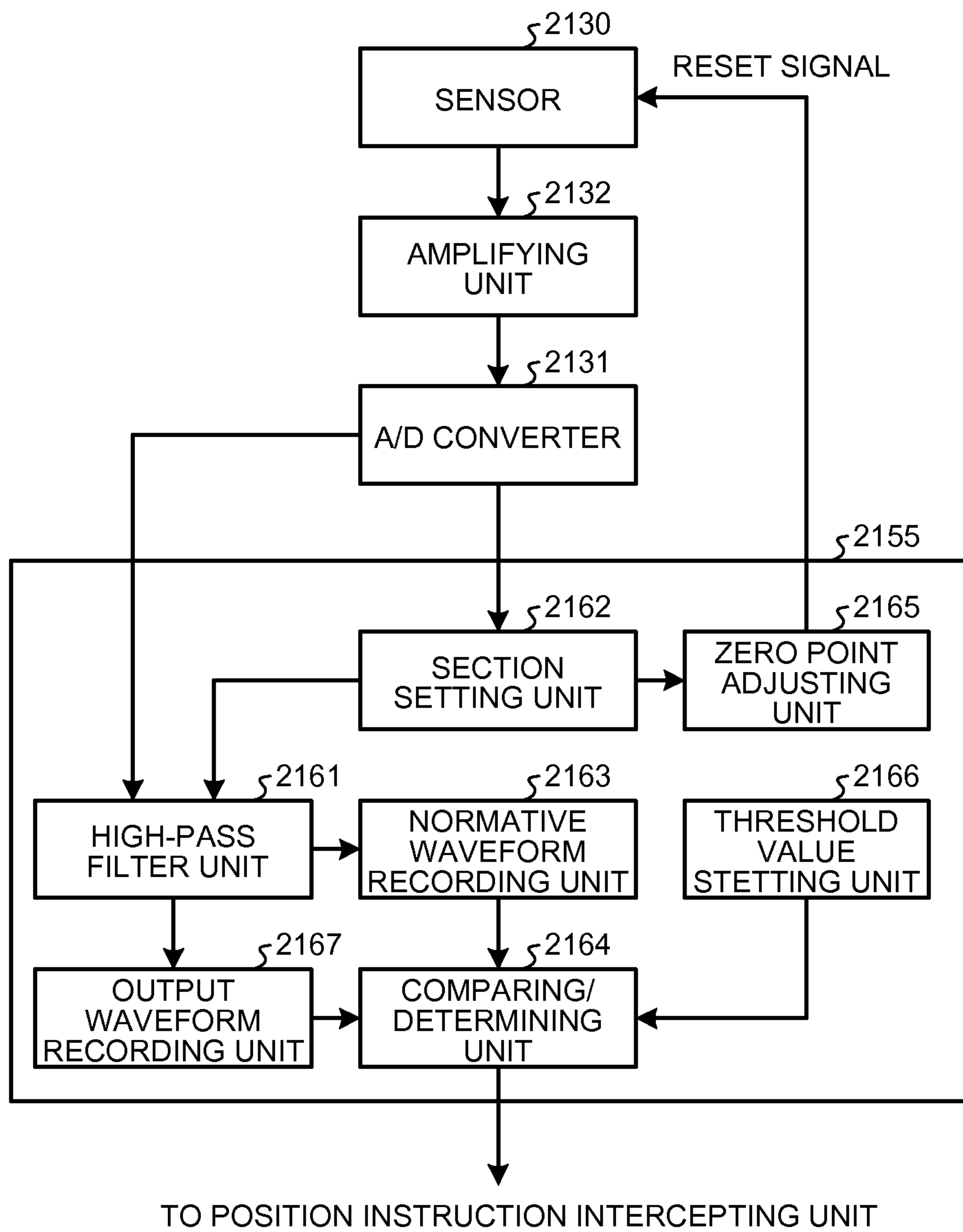


FIG.16

AT THE TIME OF INSTRUCTING
(STATE IN WHICH THERE IS NO
ABNORMALITY IN ARMS)

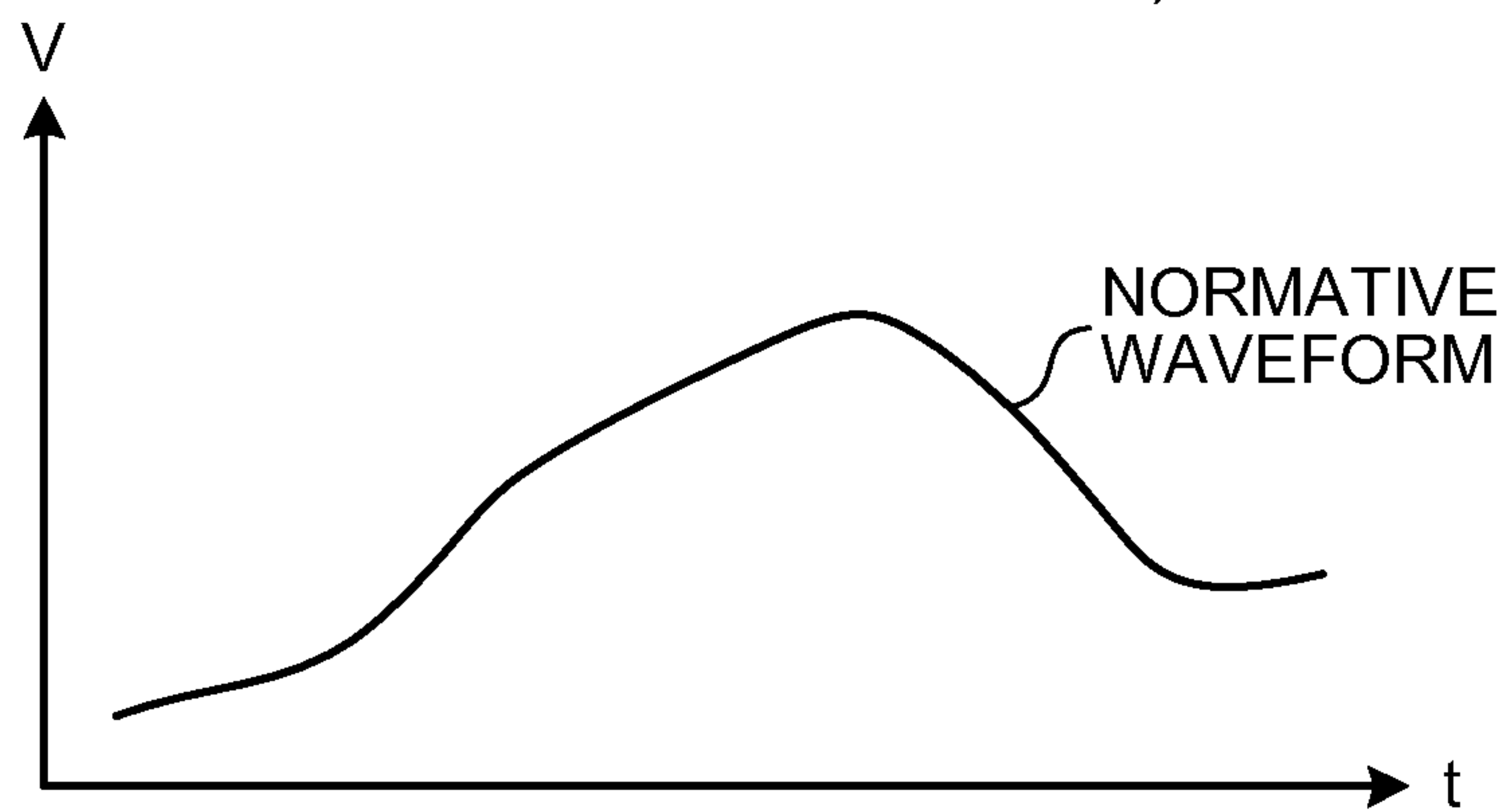


FIG.17

AT THE TIME OF ACTIVATING
(STATE IN WHICH THERE IS
ABNORMALITY IN ARMS)

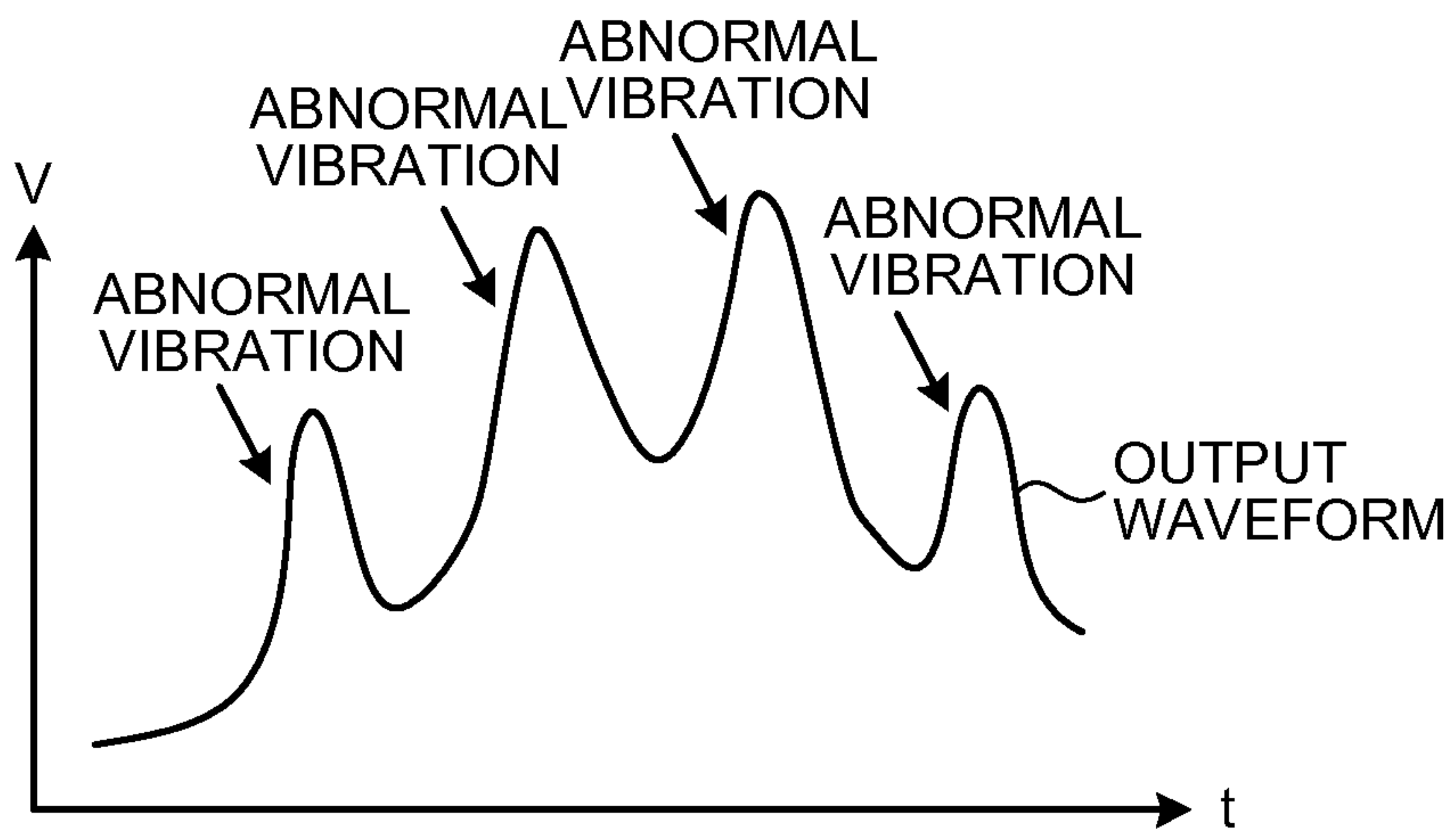


FIG.18A

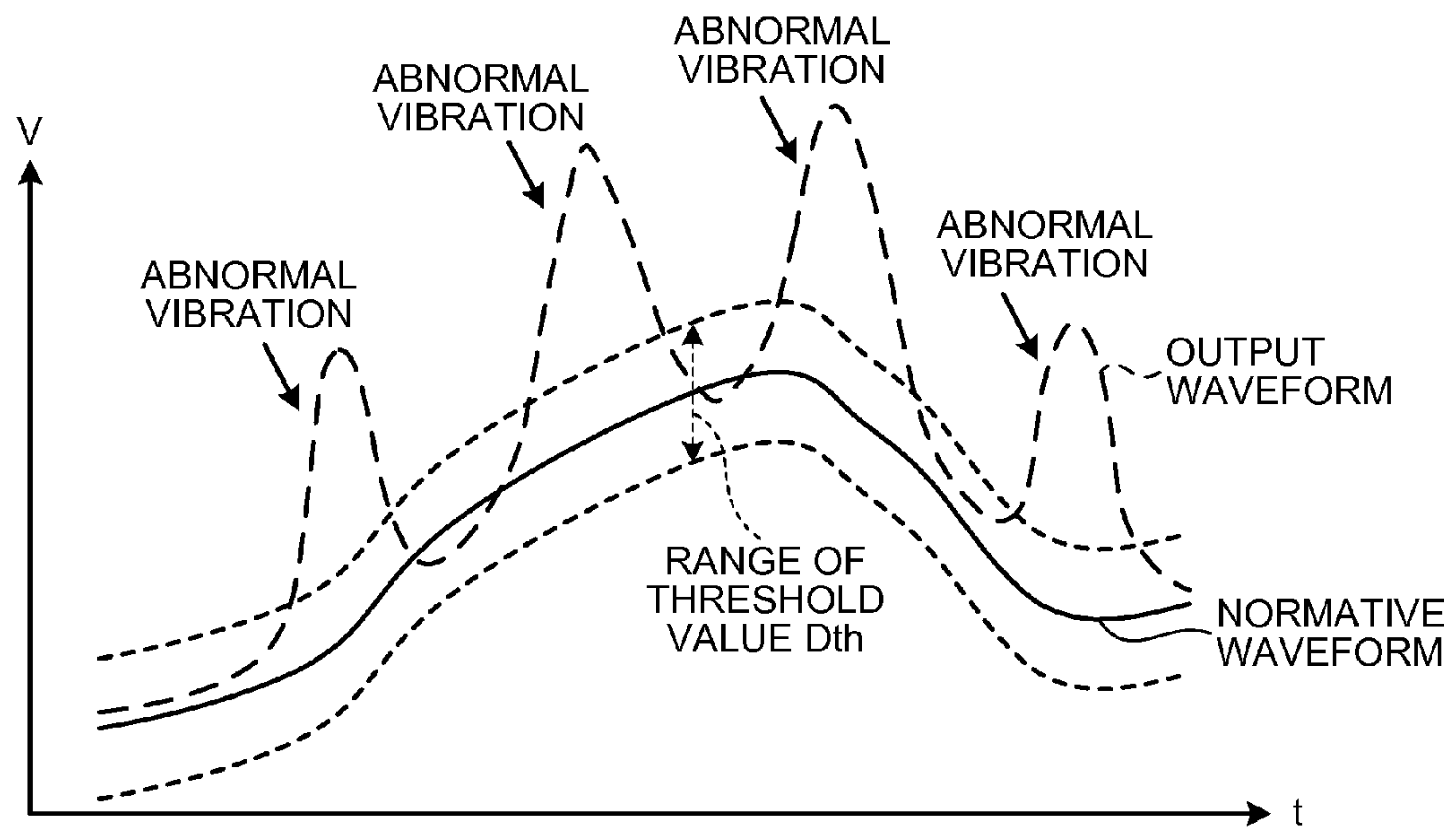


FIG.18B

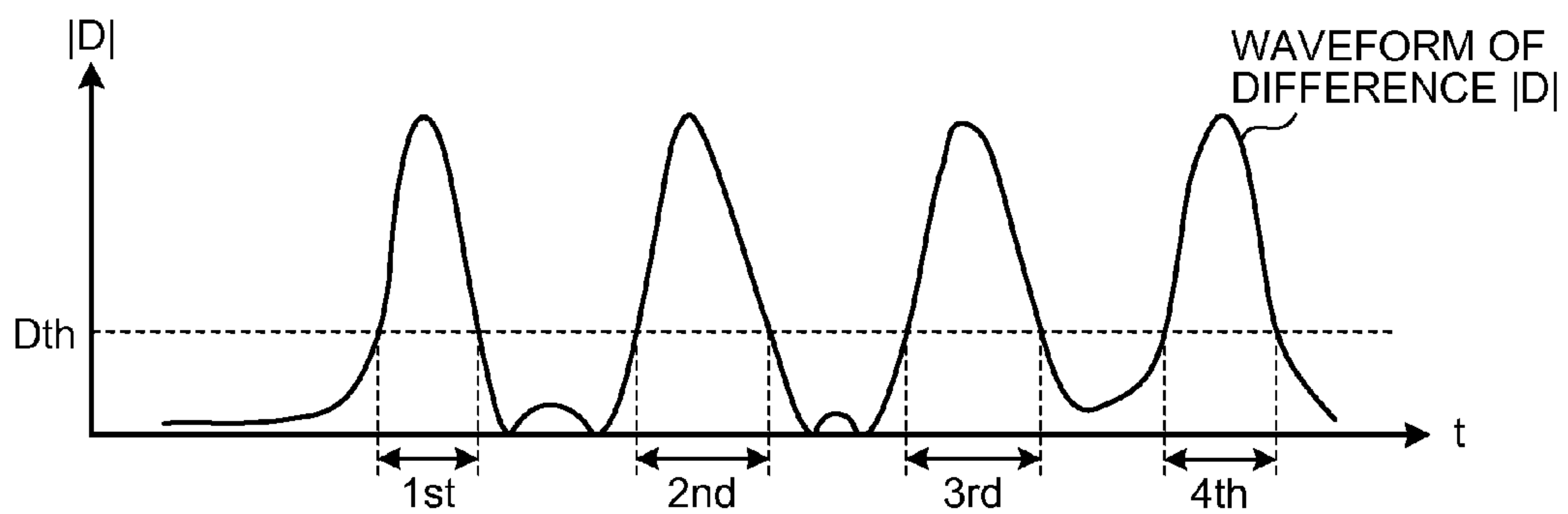


FIG.19

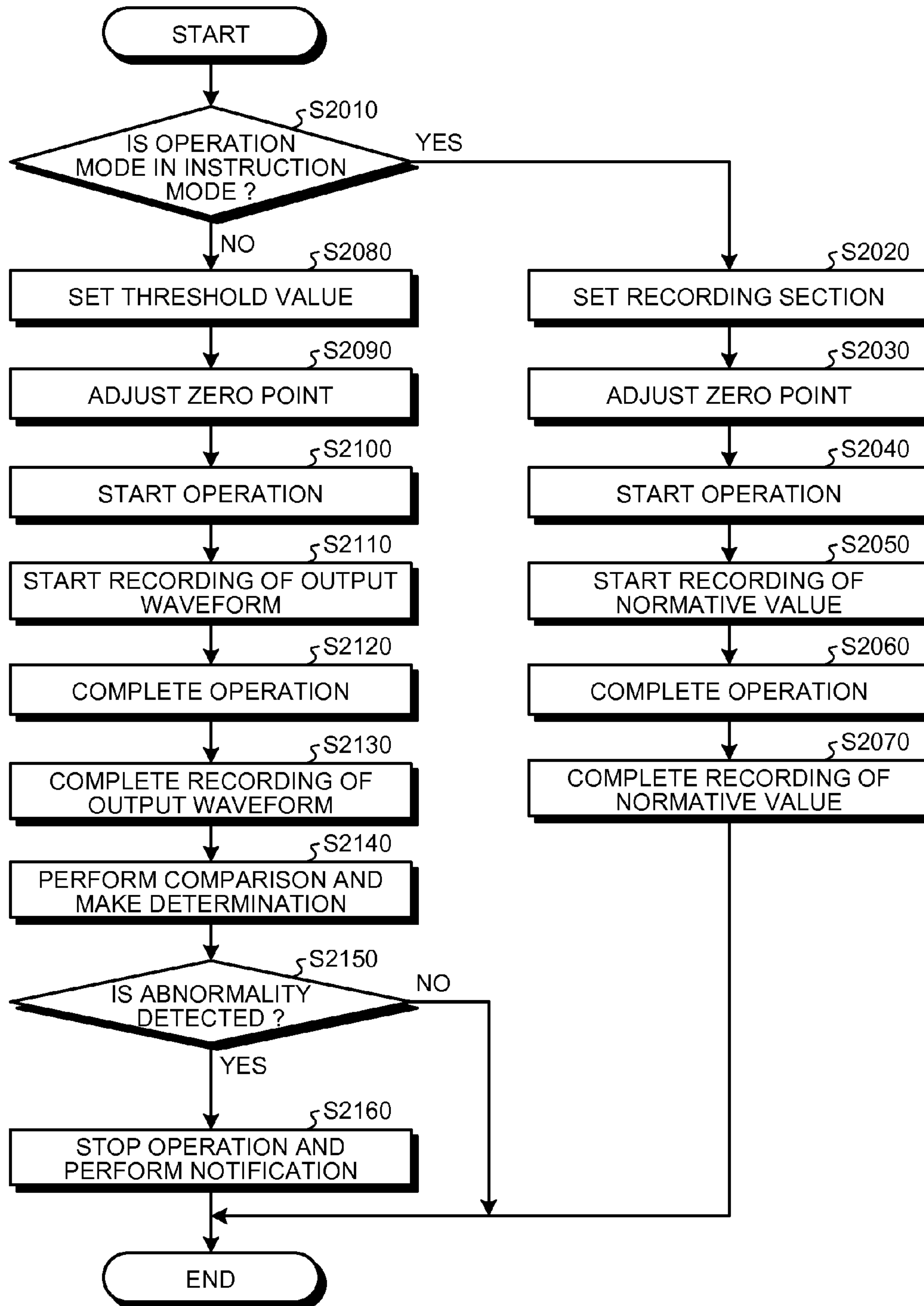


FIG.20

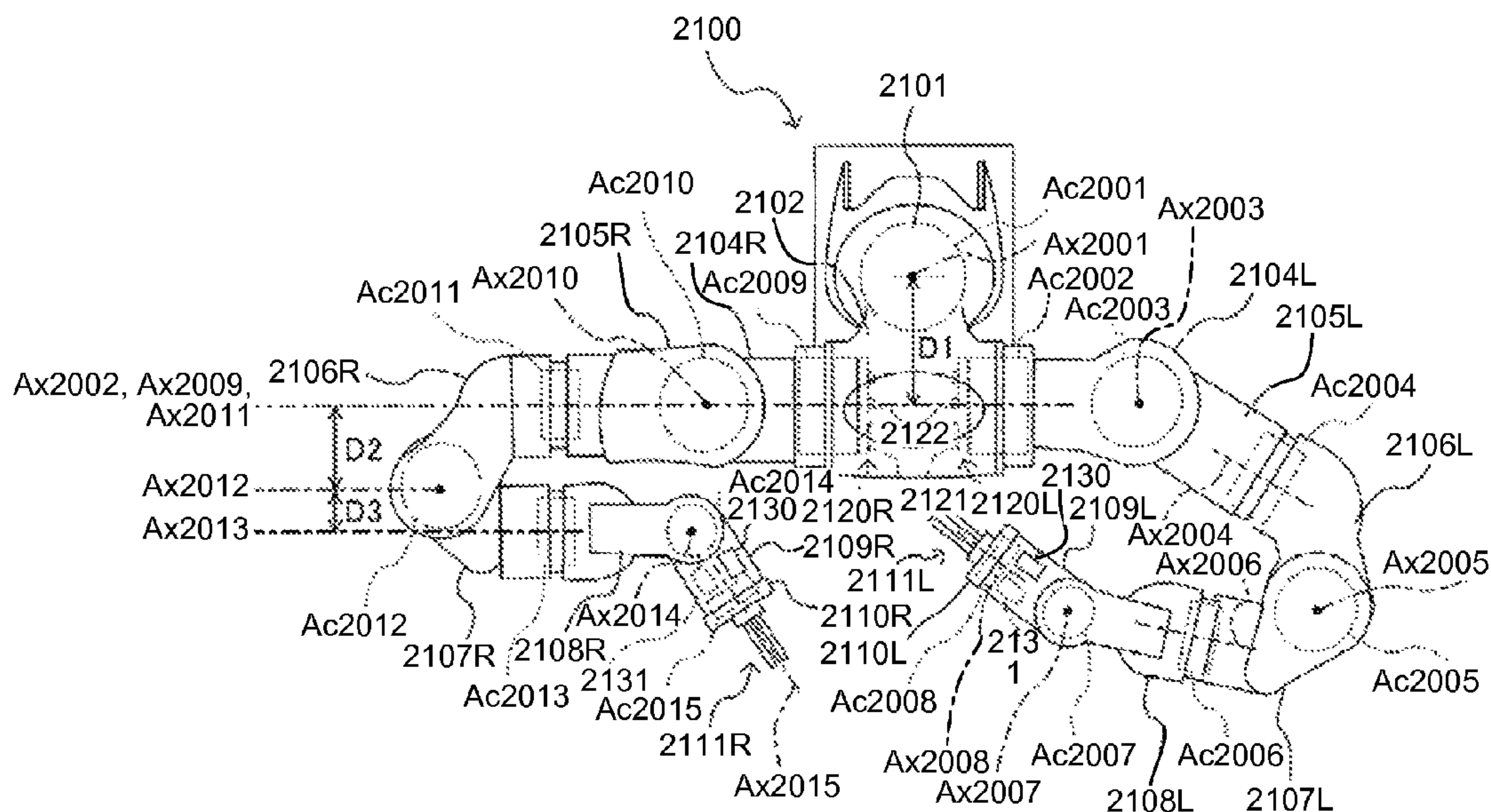


FIG.21

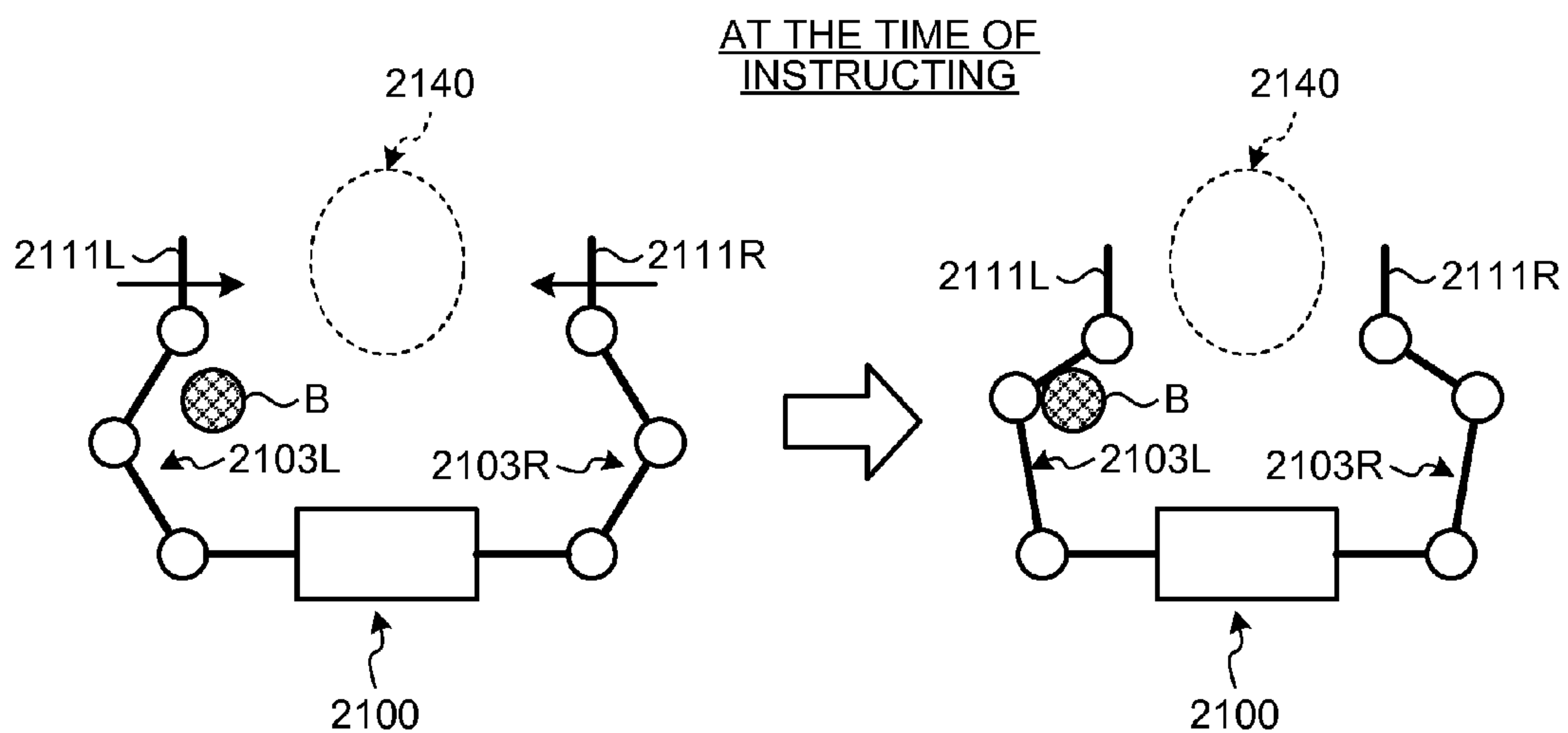


FIG. 22

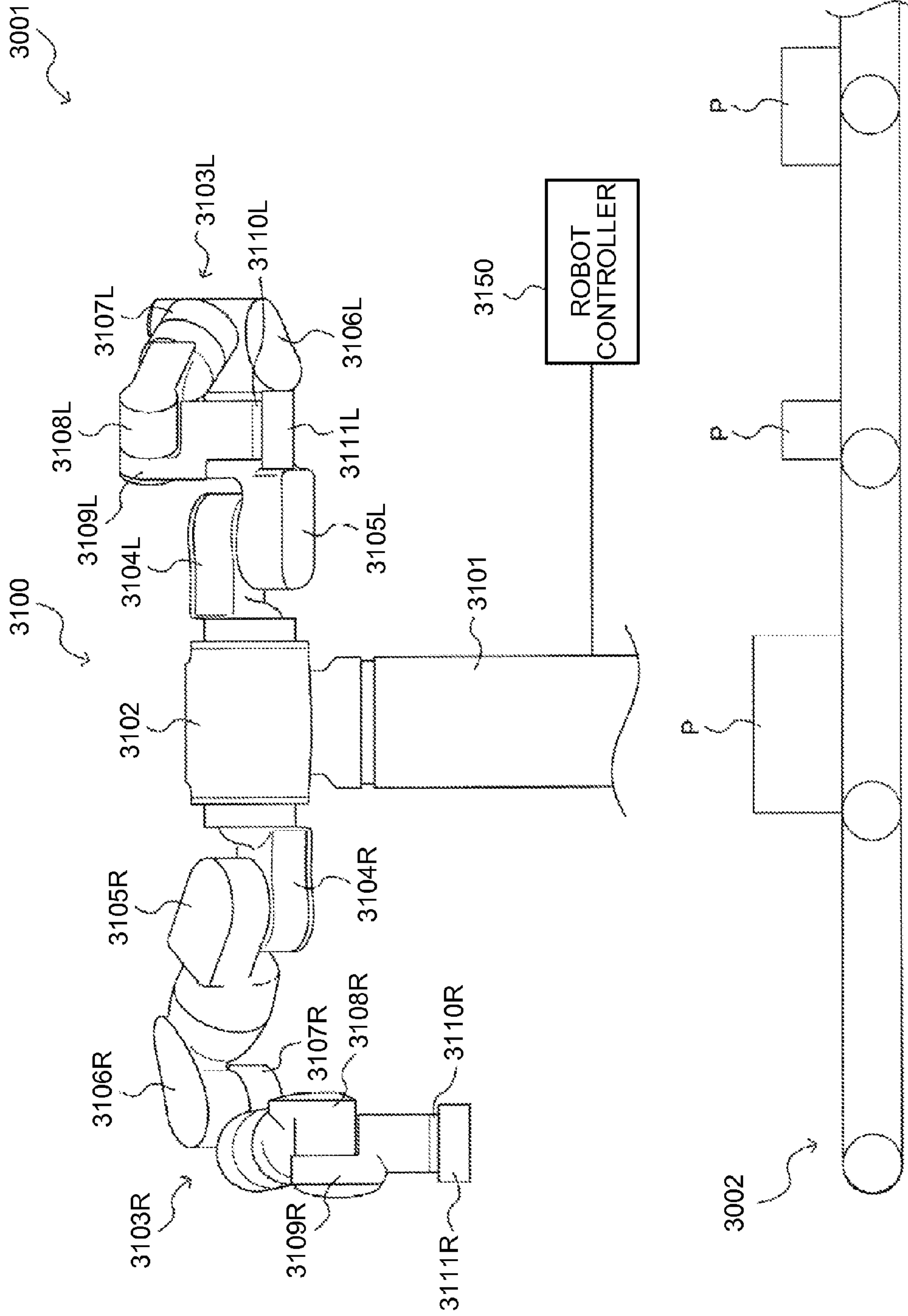


FIG.23

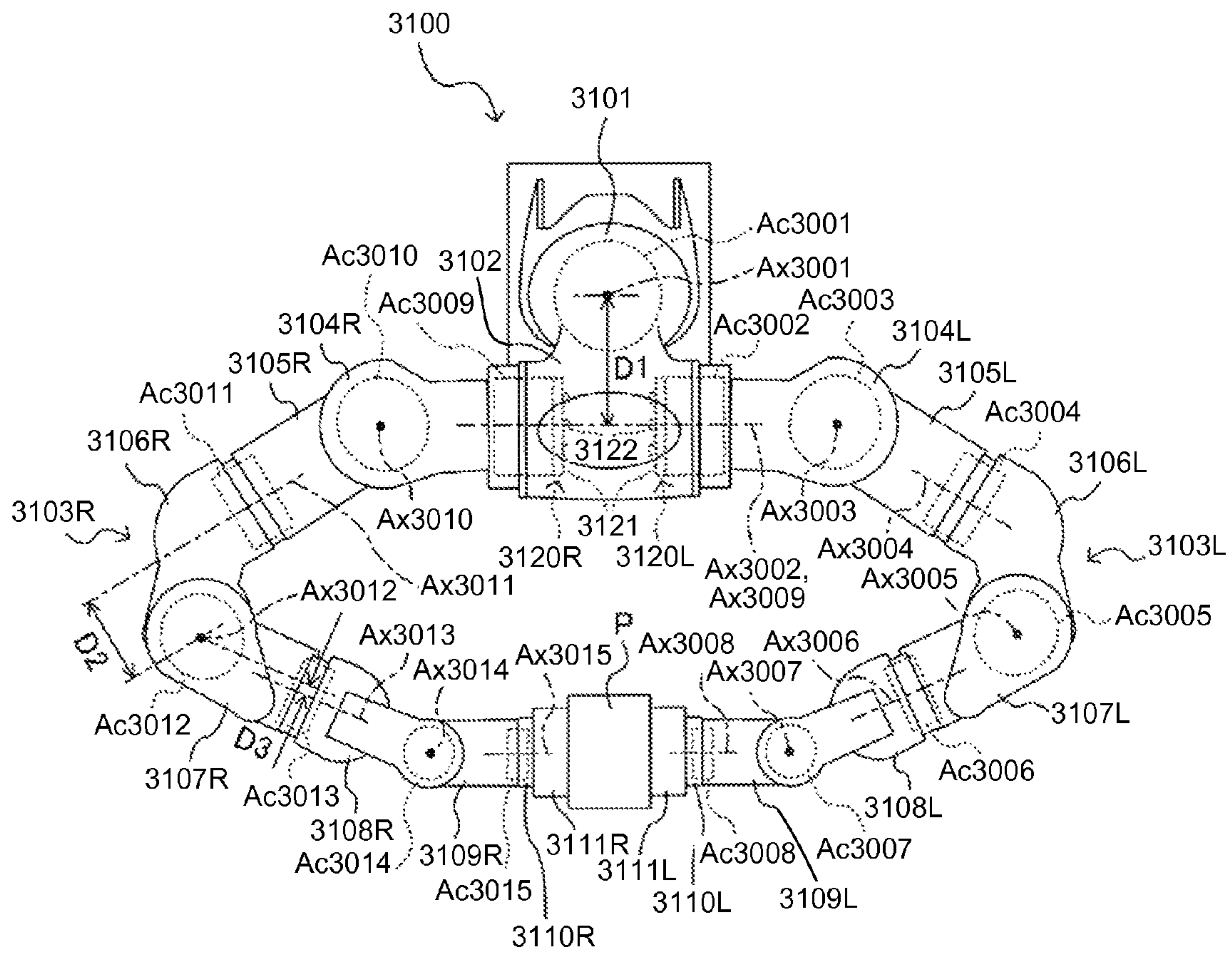


FIG.24

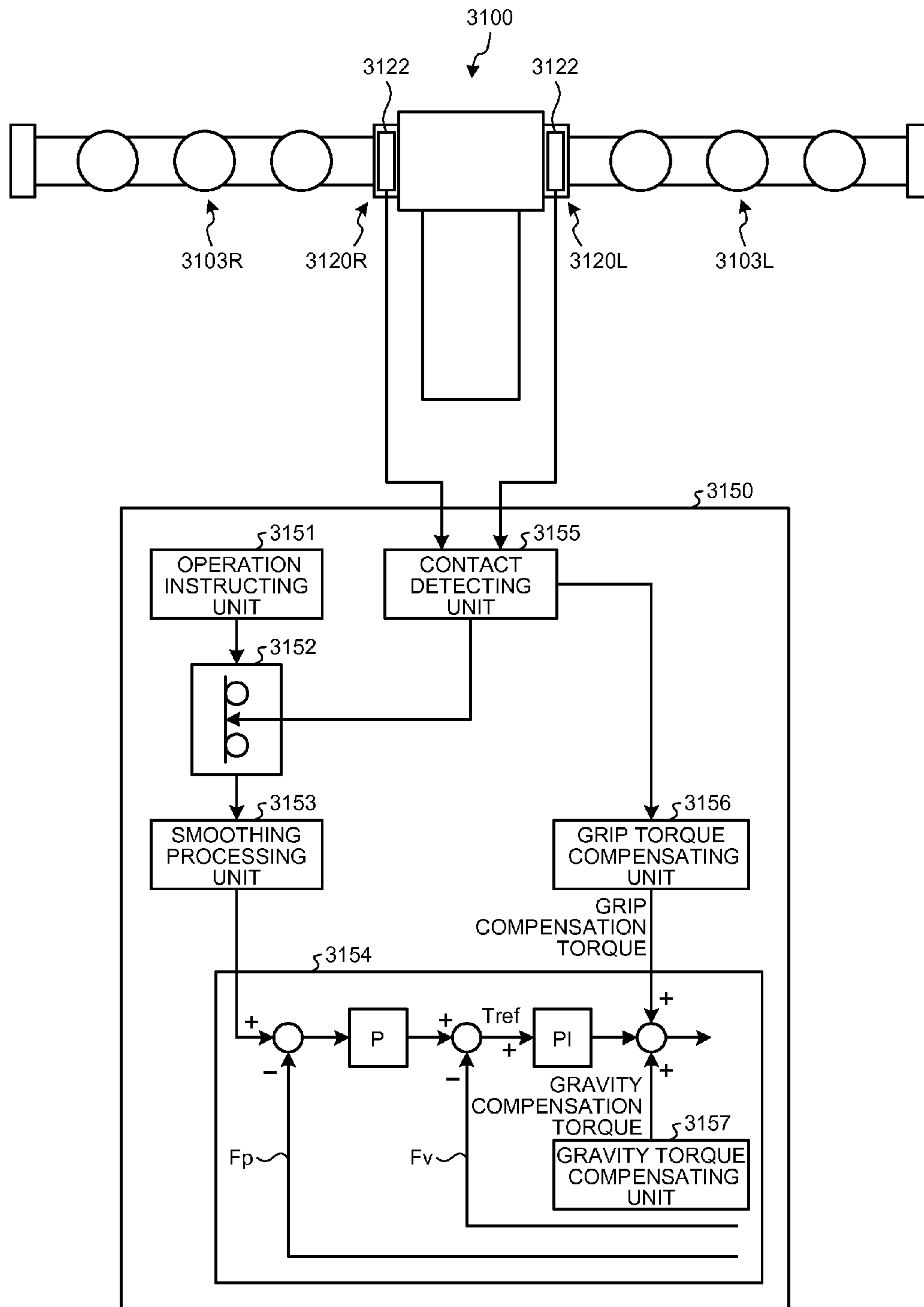


FIG.25

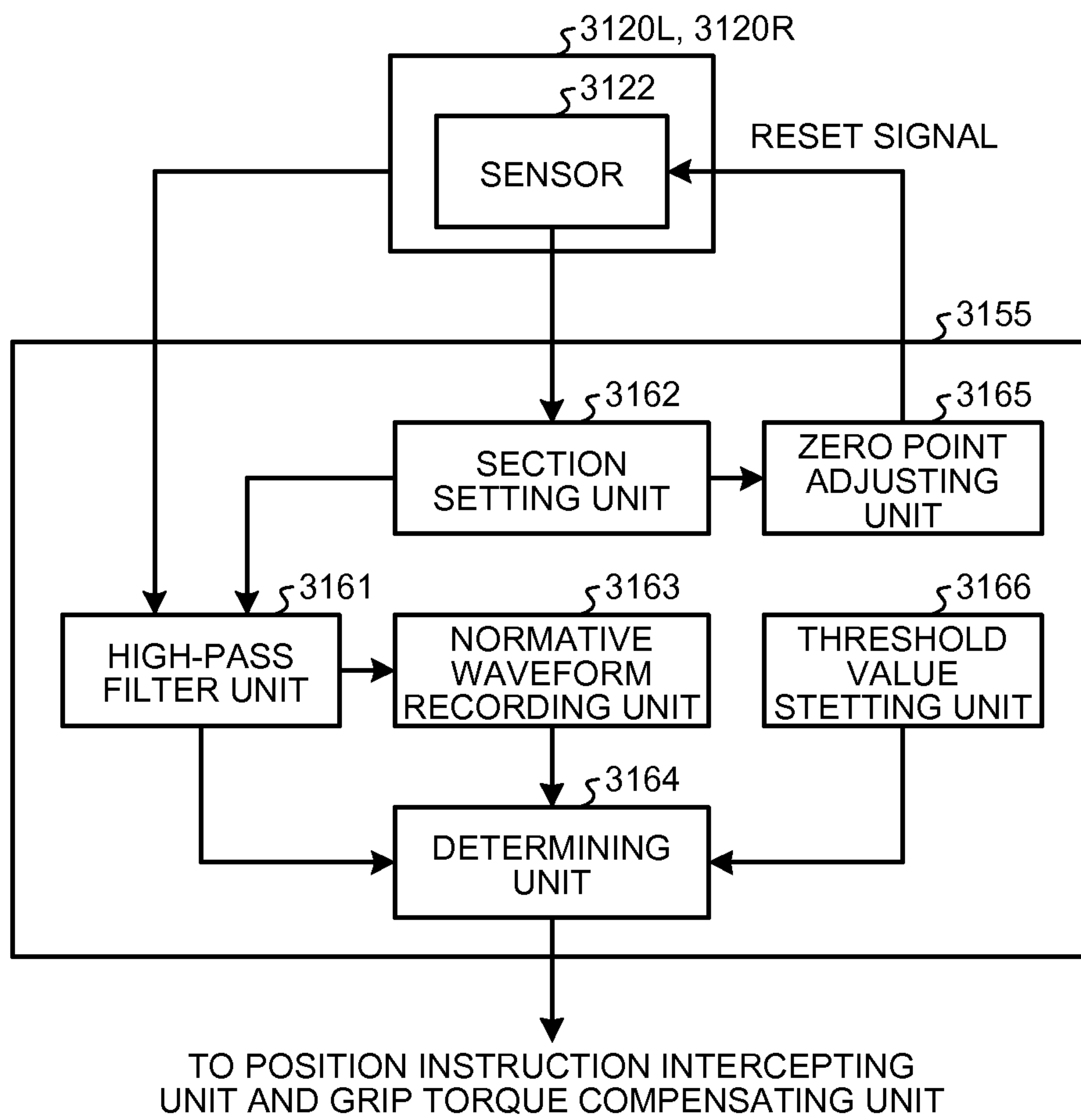


FIG.26

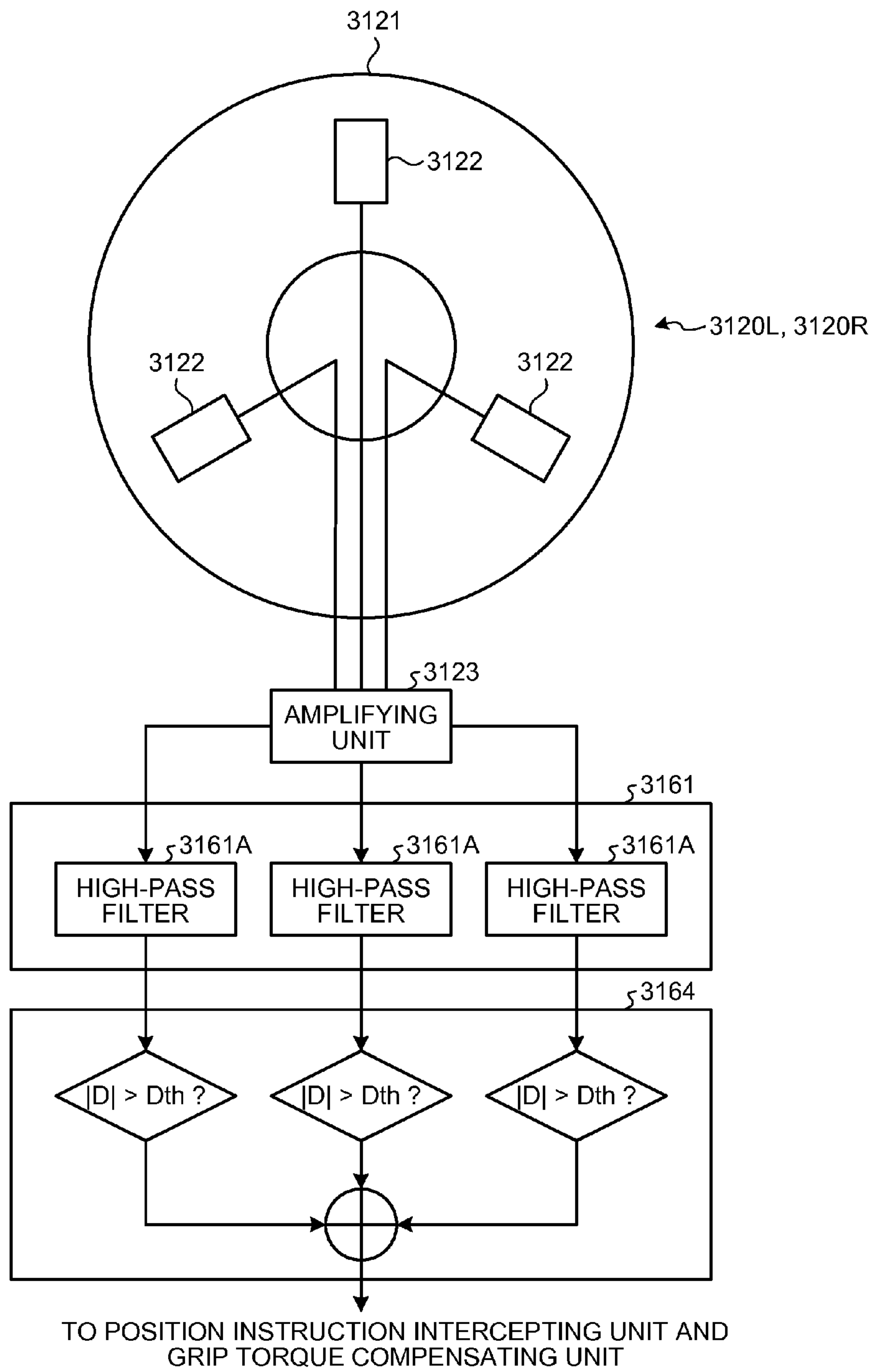


FIG.27A

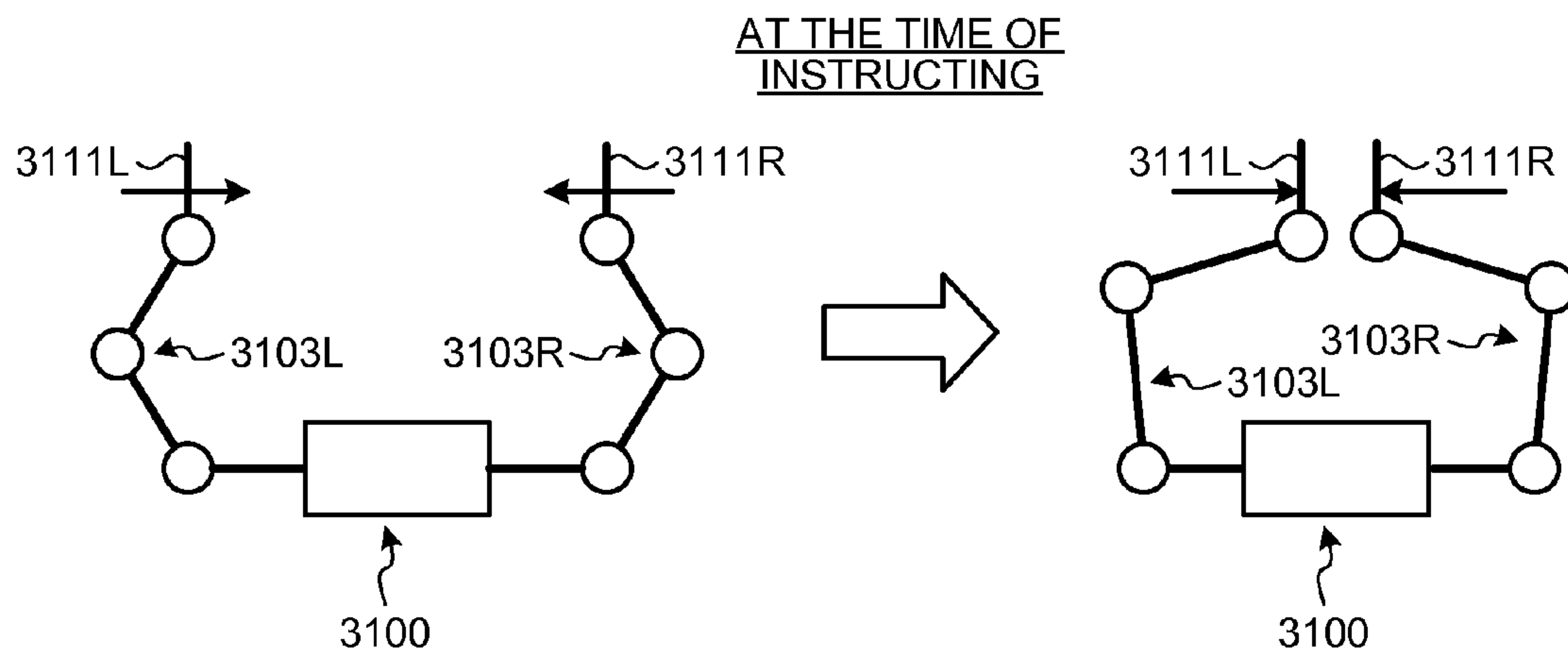


FIG.27B

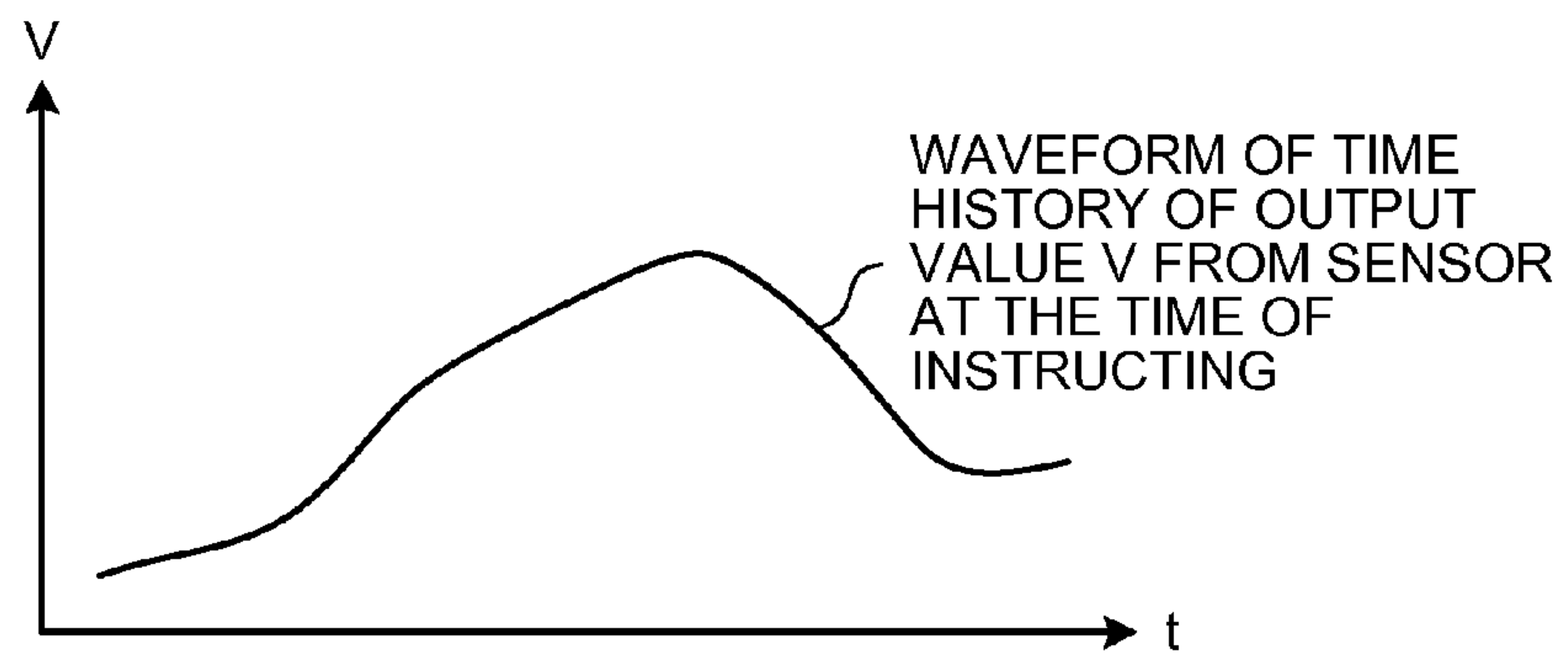


FIG.28A

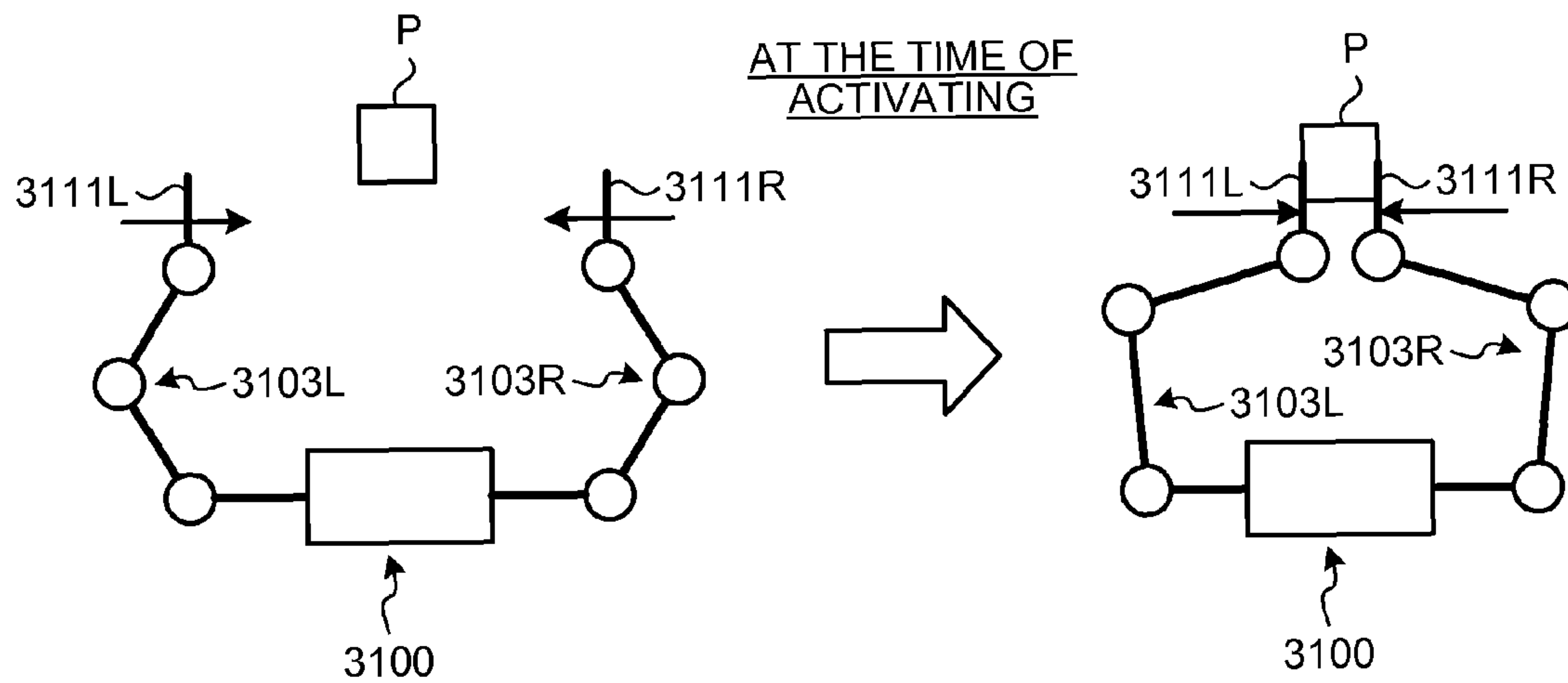


FIG.28B

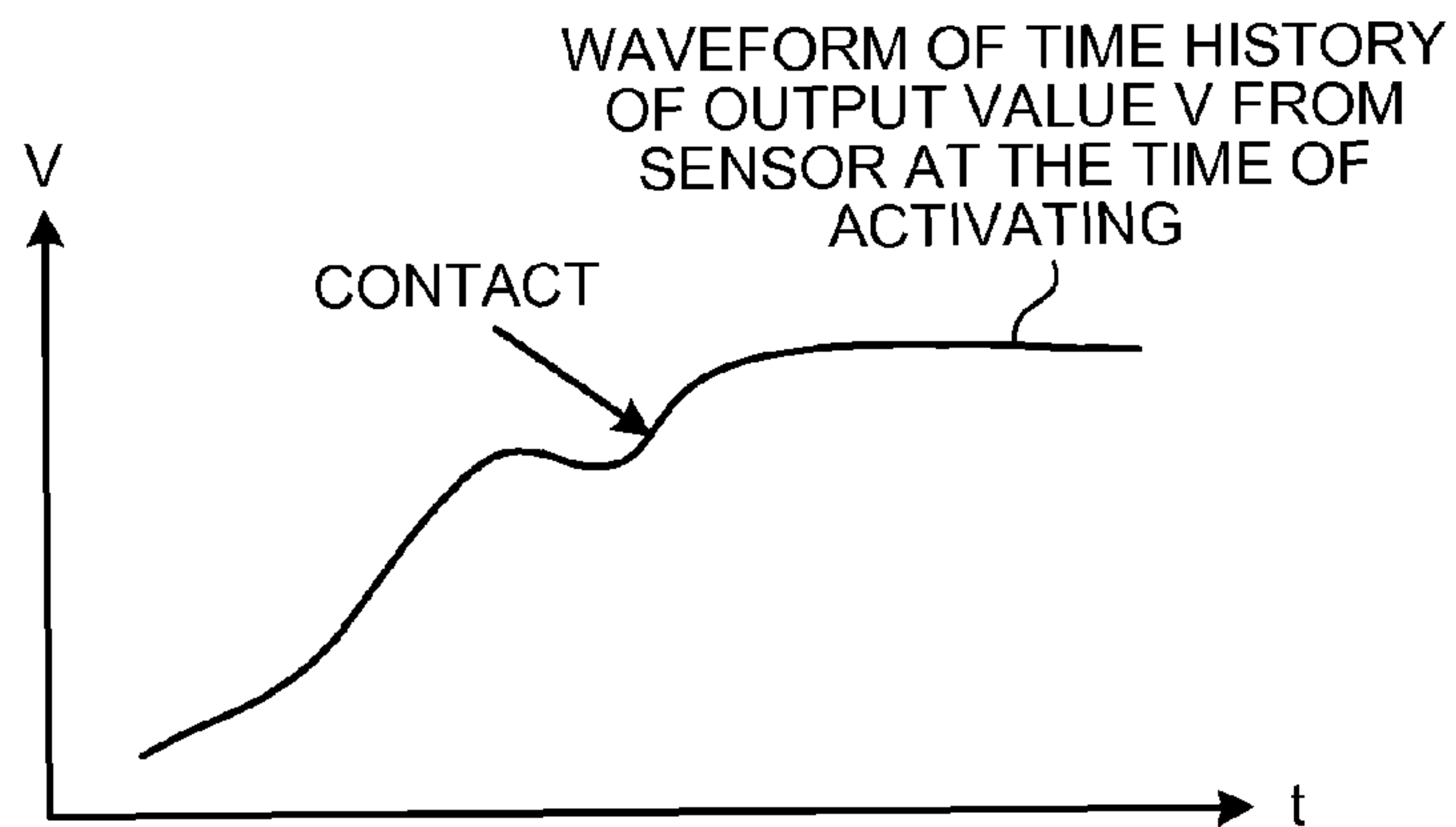


FIG.29A

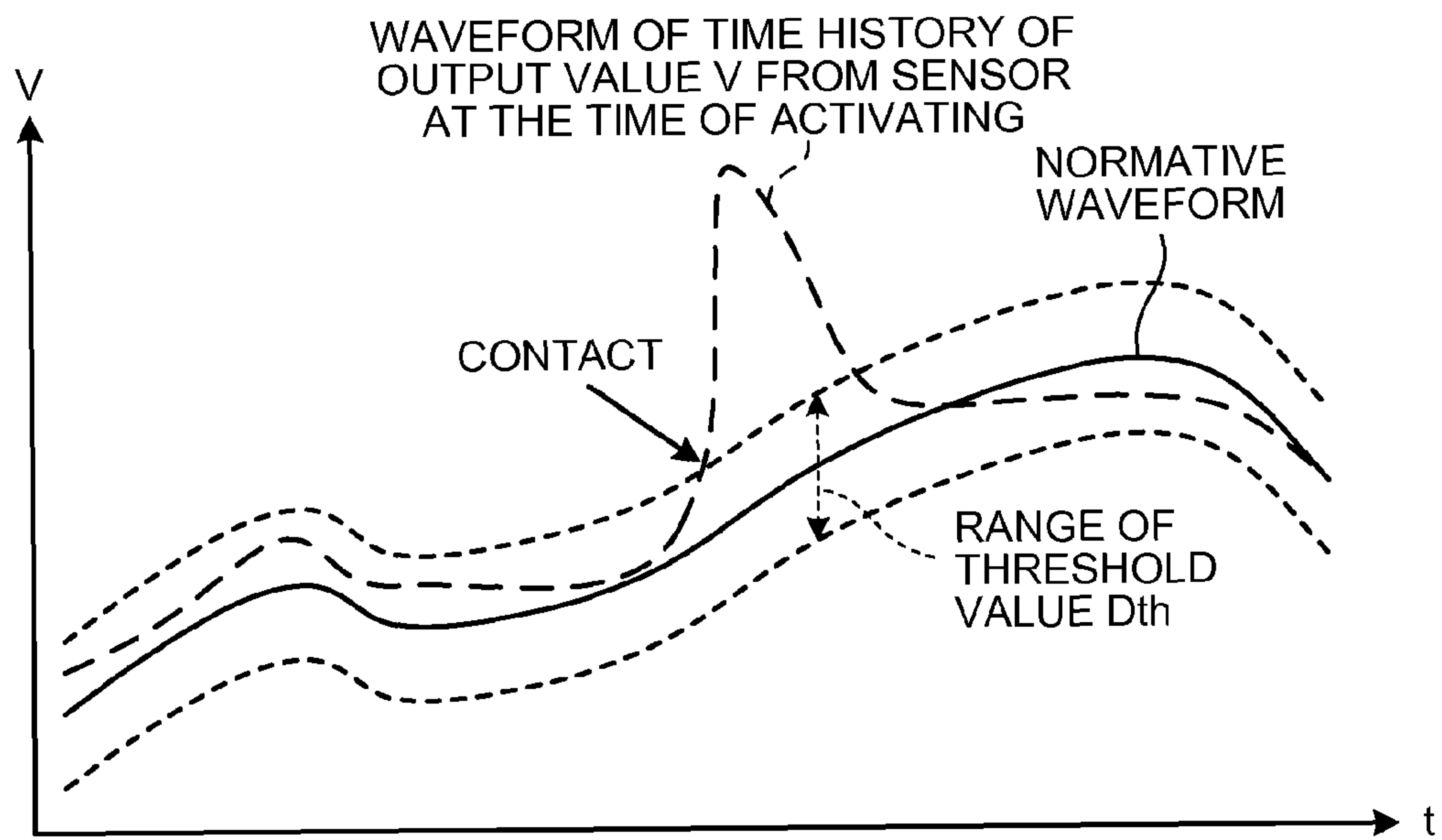


FIG.29B

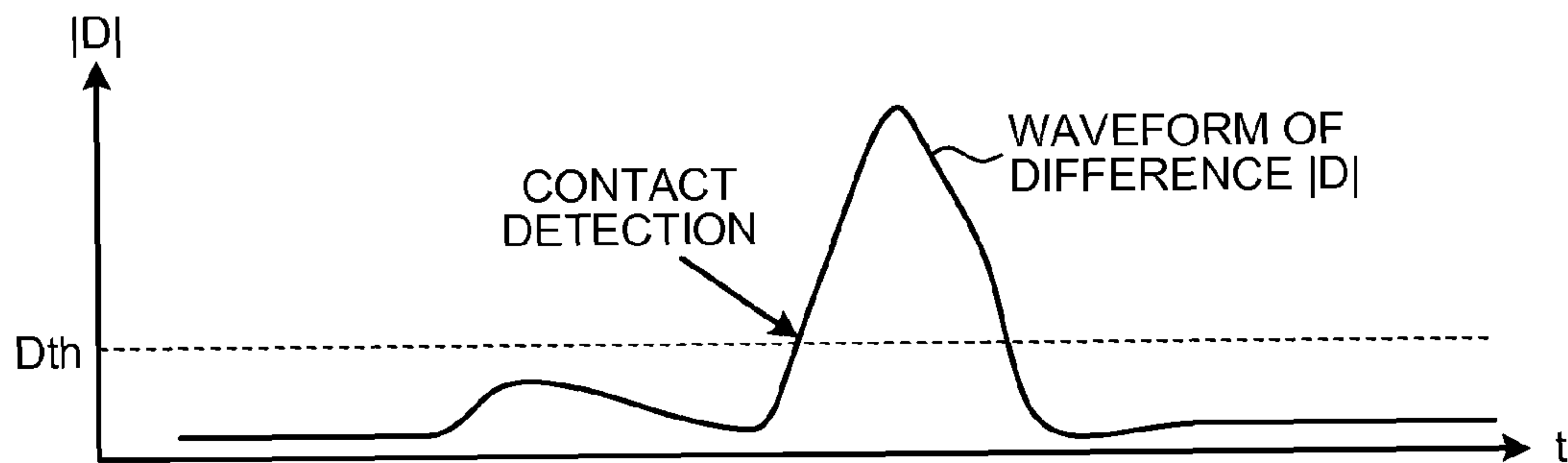


FIG.30

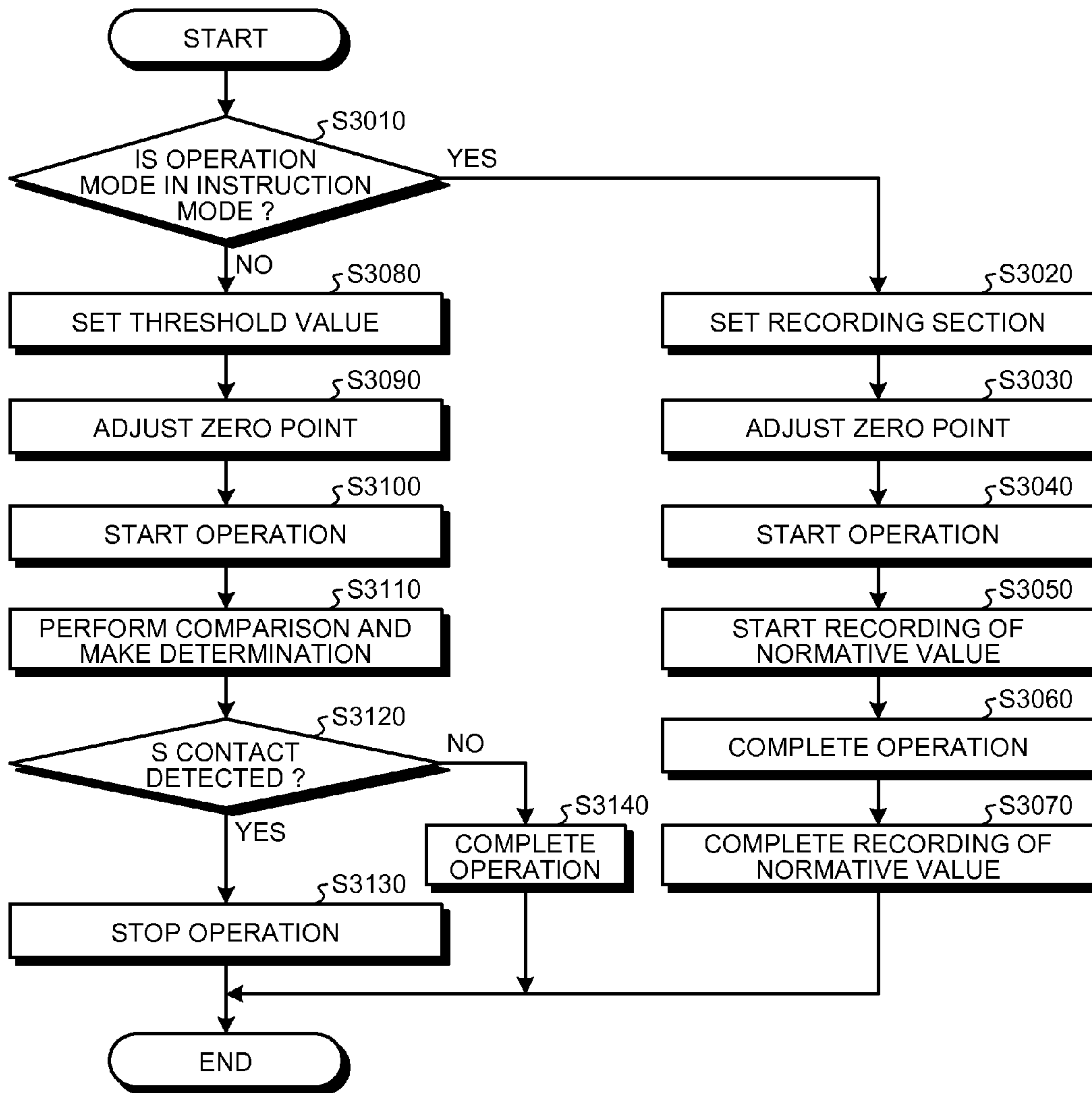


FIG.31

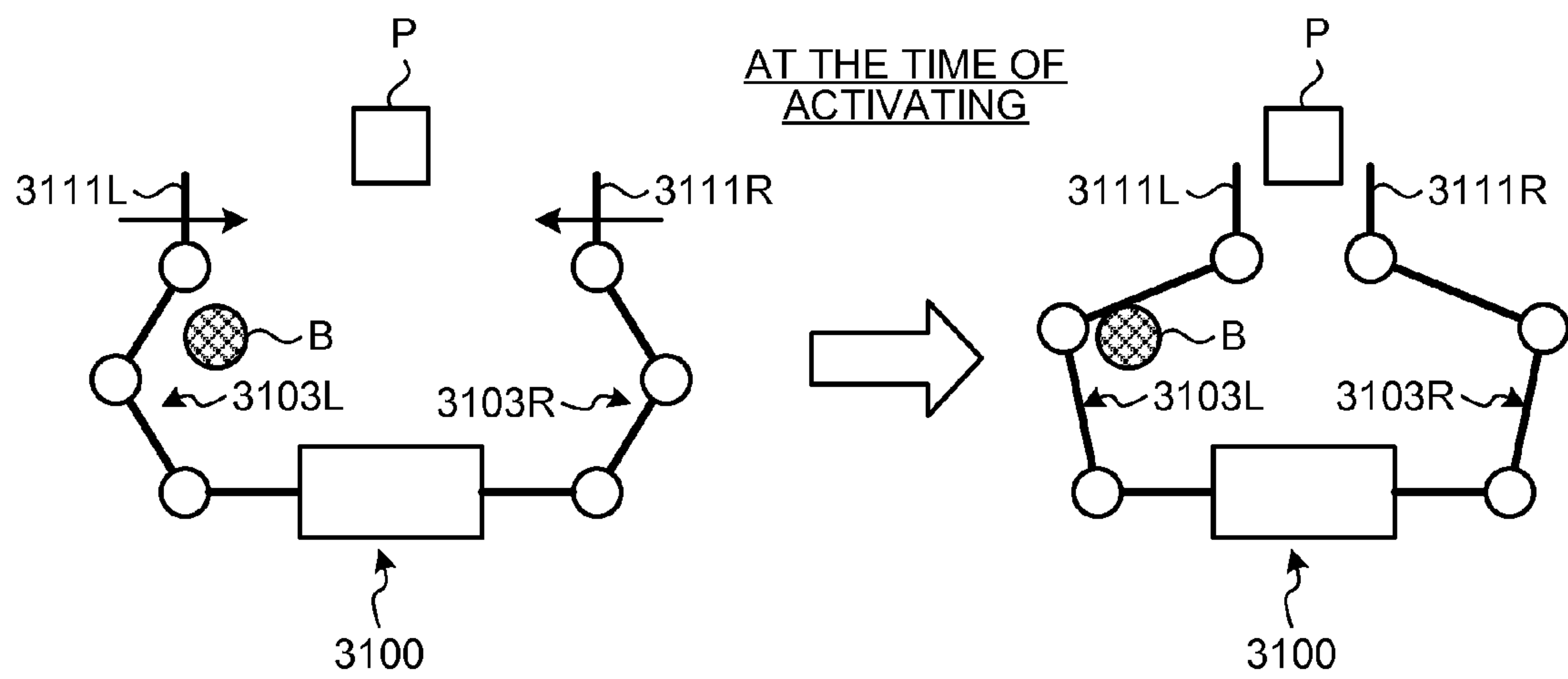


FIG.32

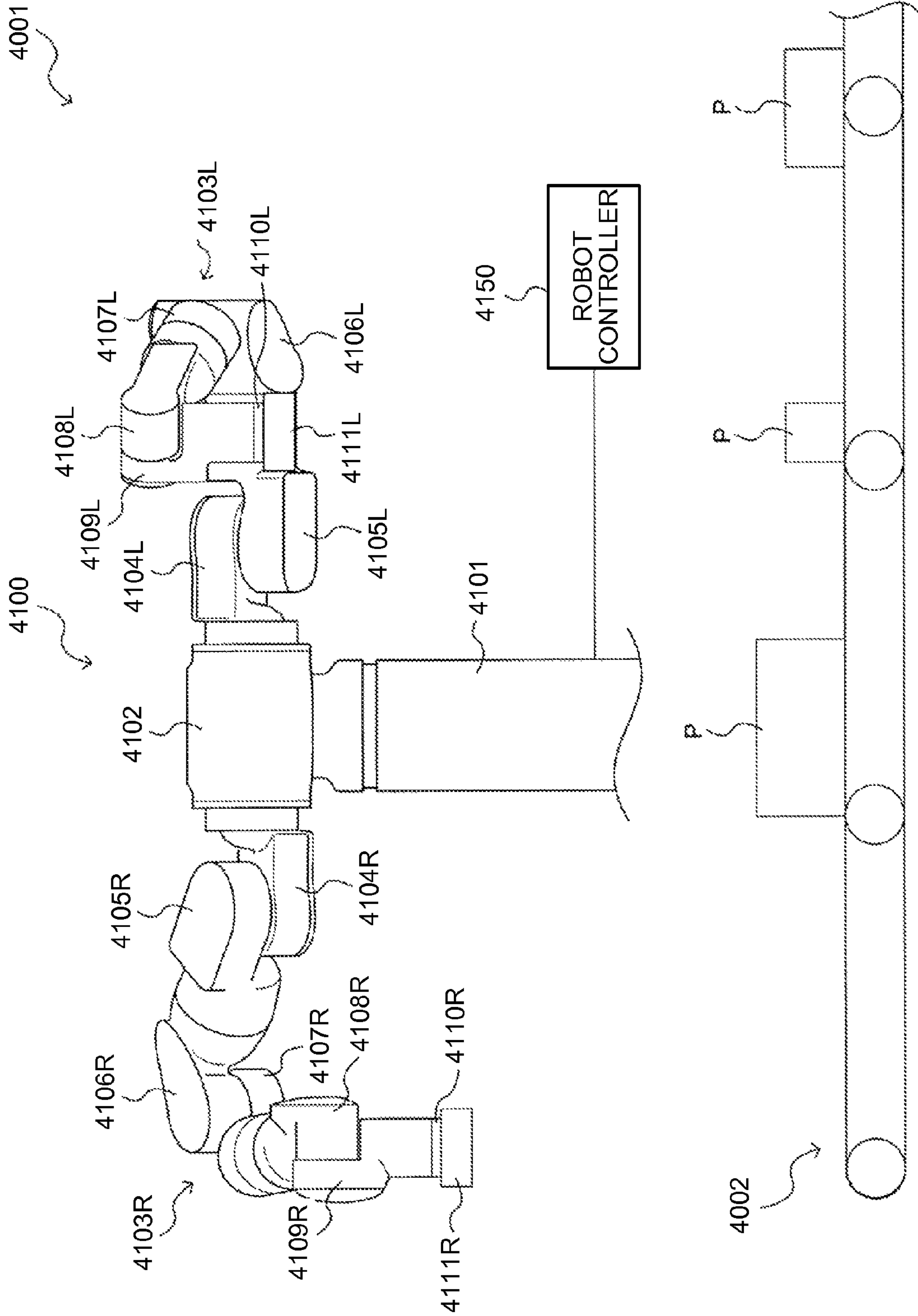


FIG.33

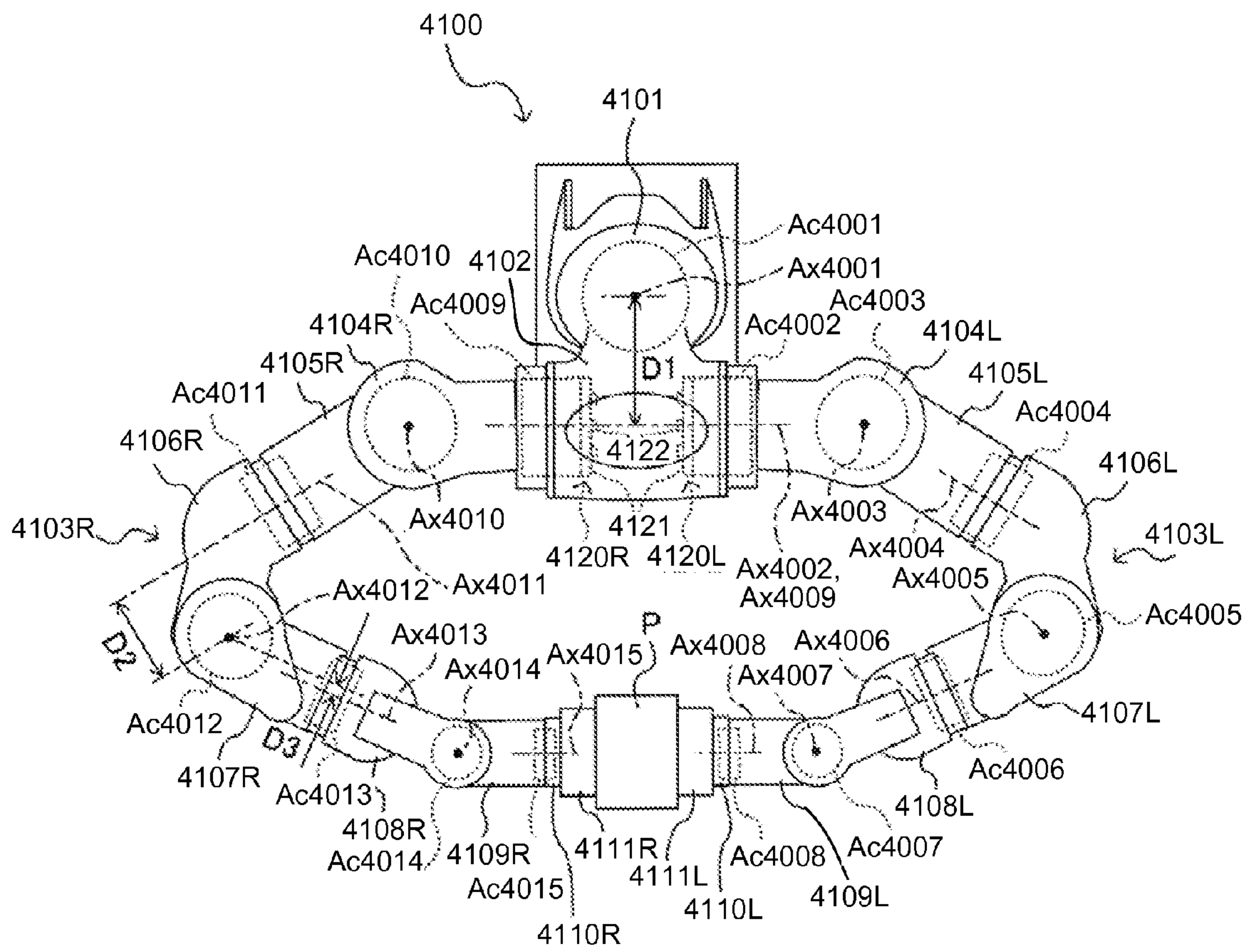


FIG.34

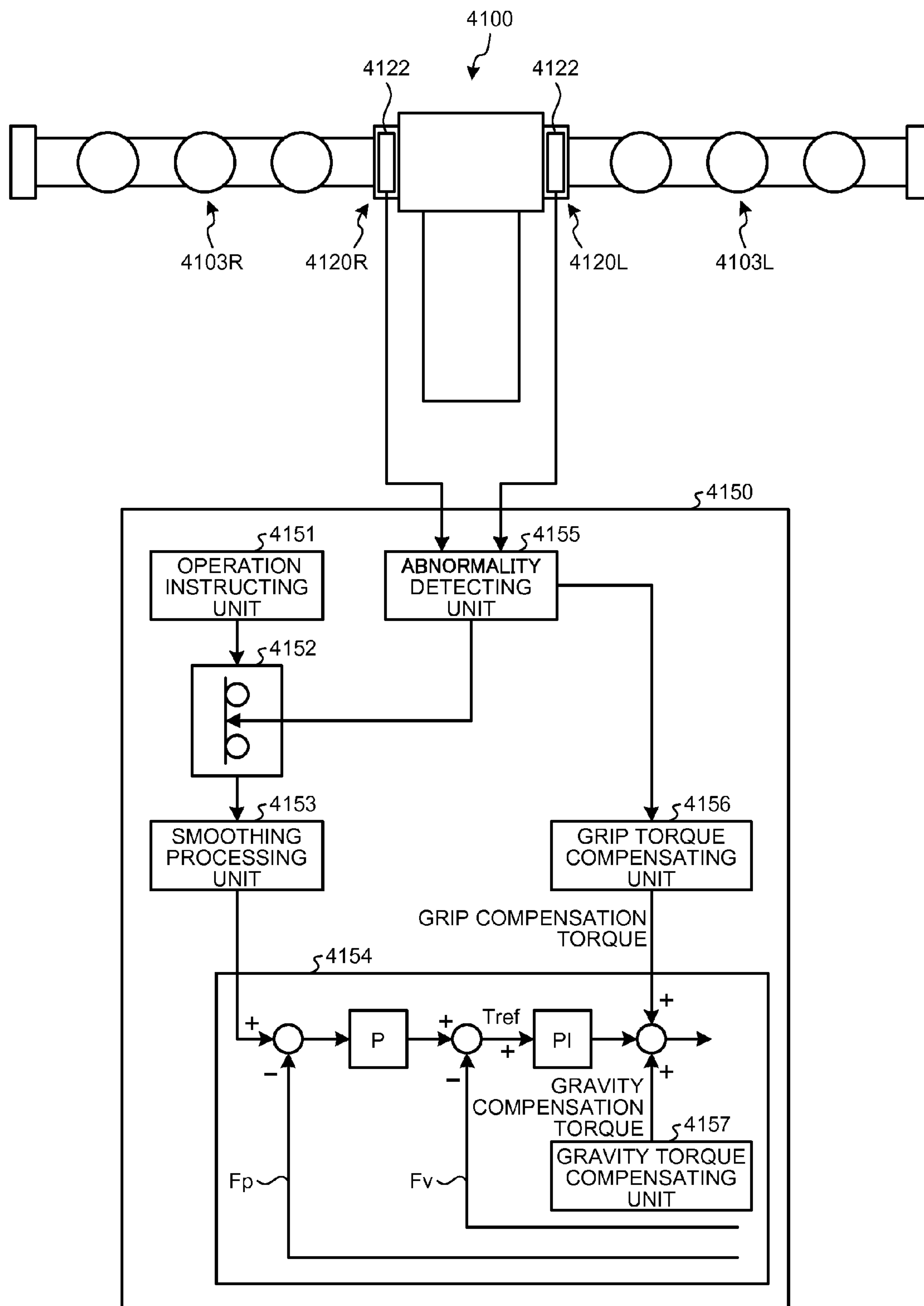


FIG.35

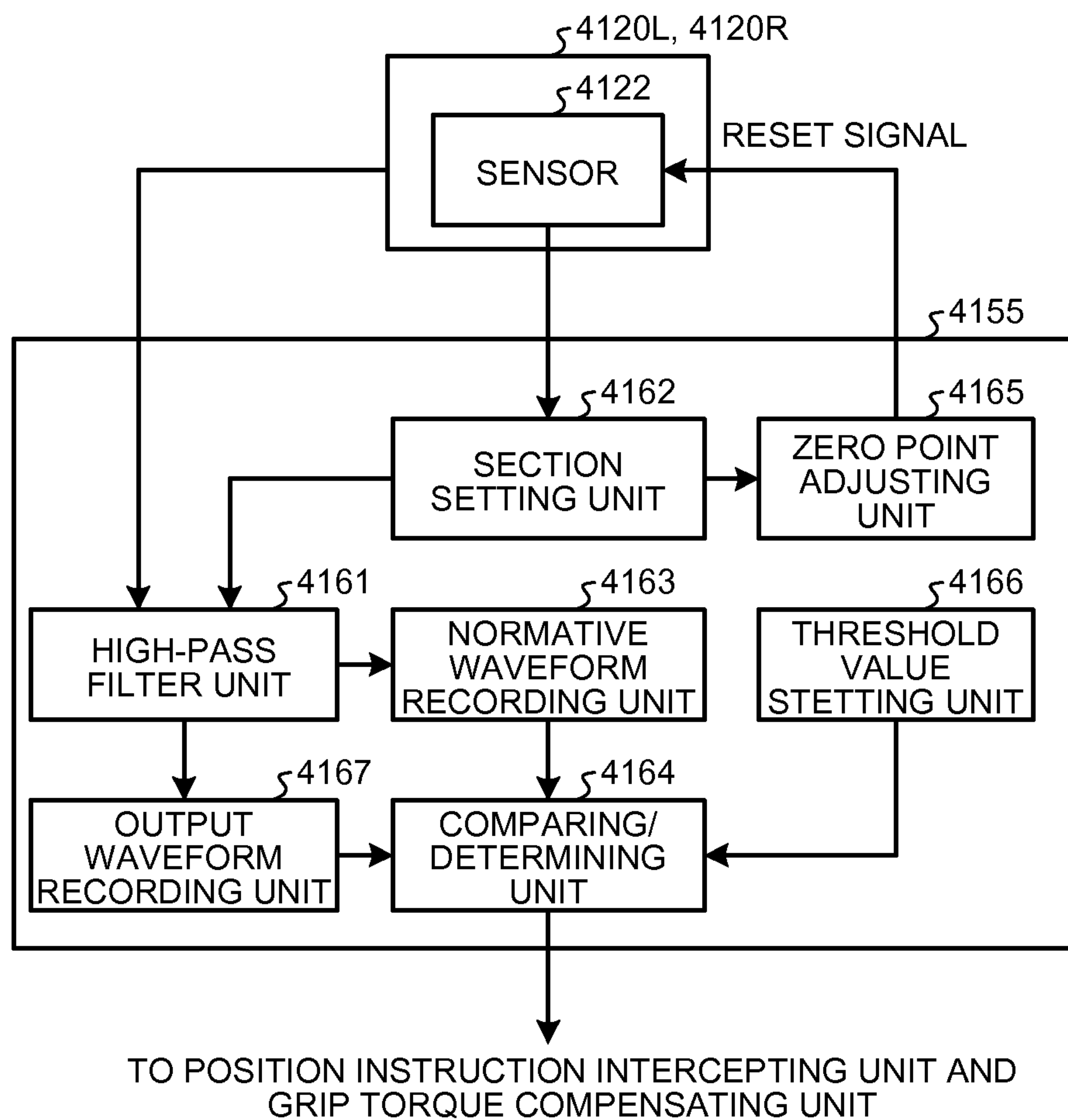


FIG.36

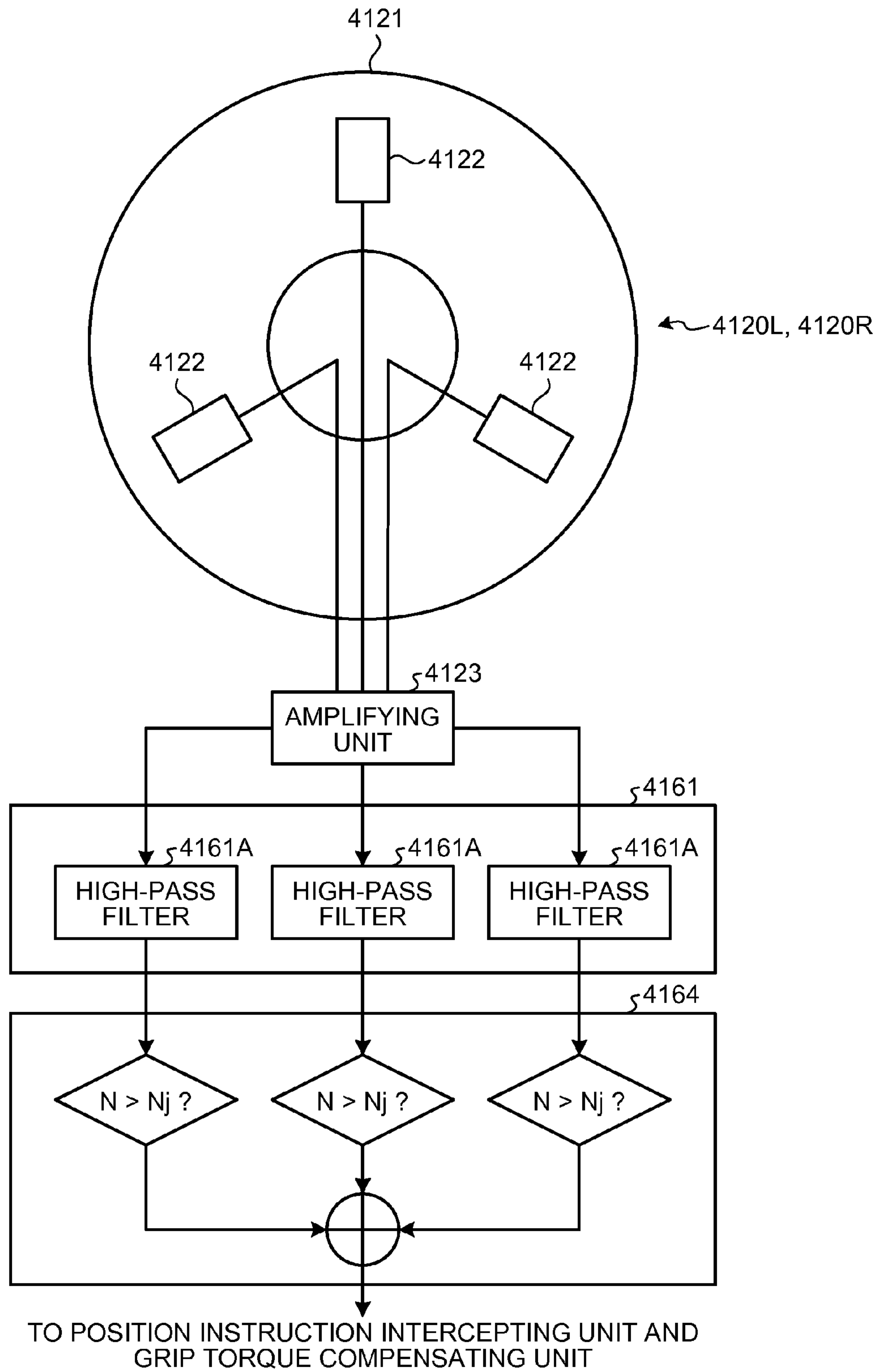


FIG.37A

AT THE TIME OF INSTRUCTING
(STATE IN WHICH THERE IS NO
ABNORMALITY IN ARMS)

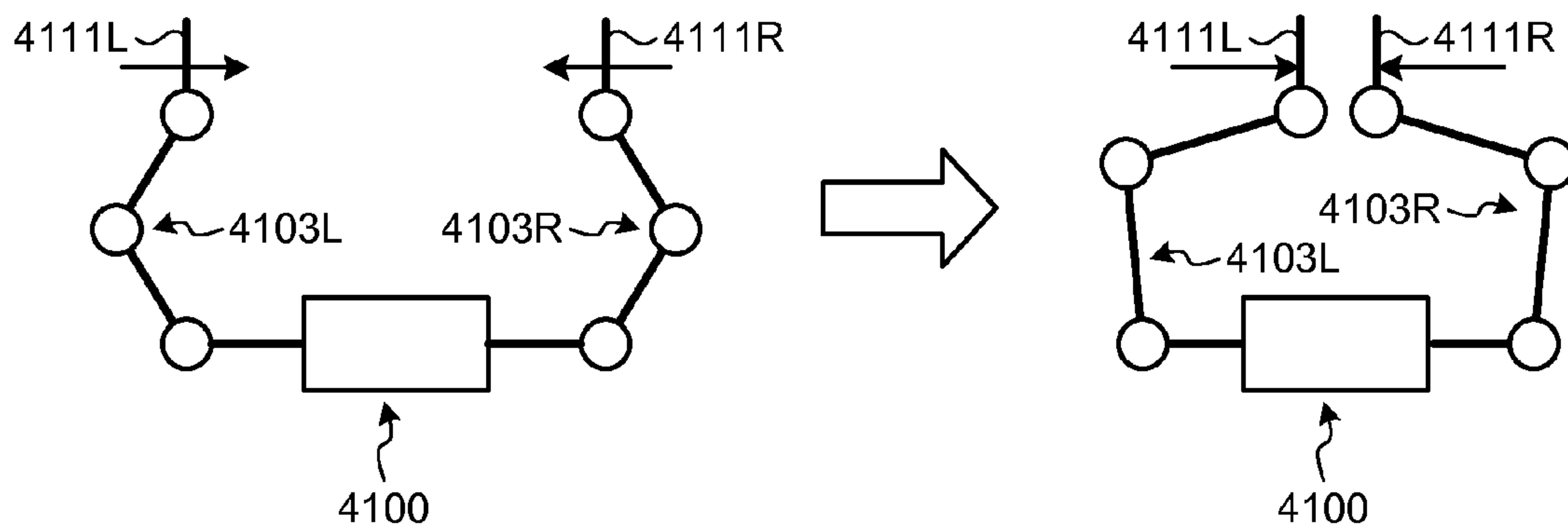


FIG.37B

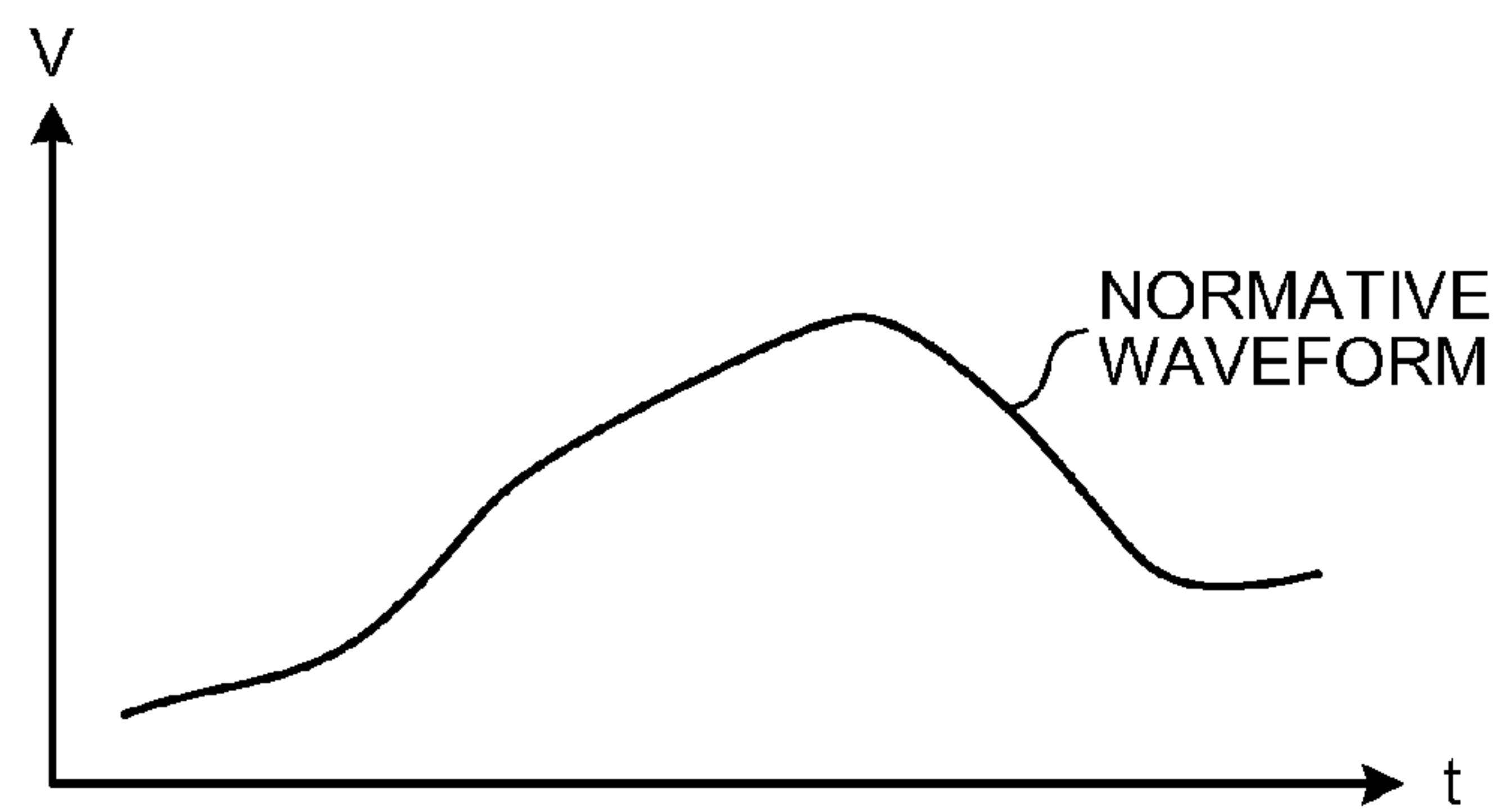


FIG.38A

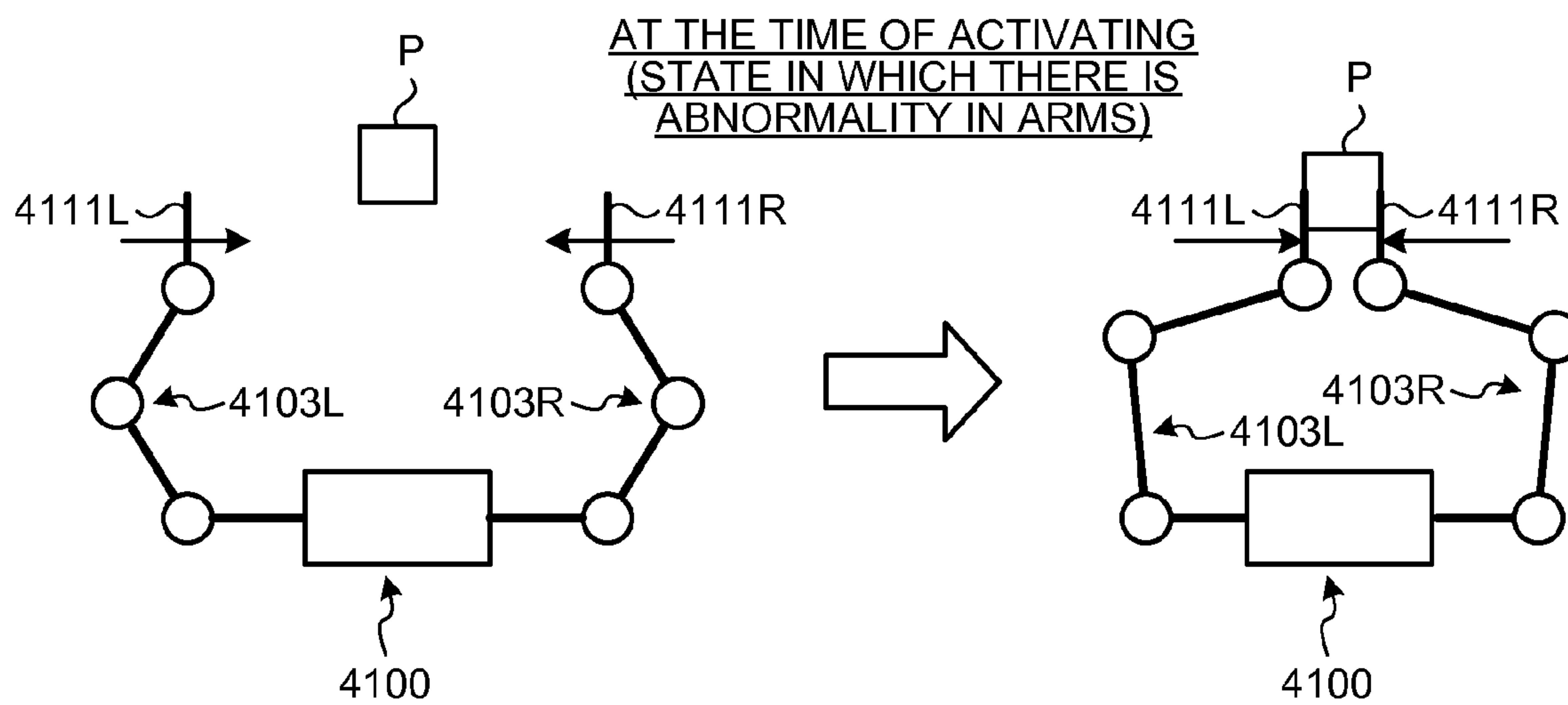


FIG.38B

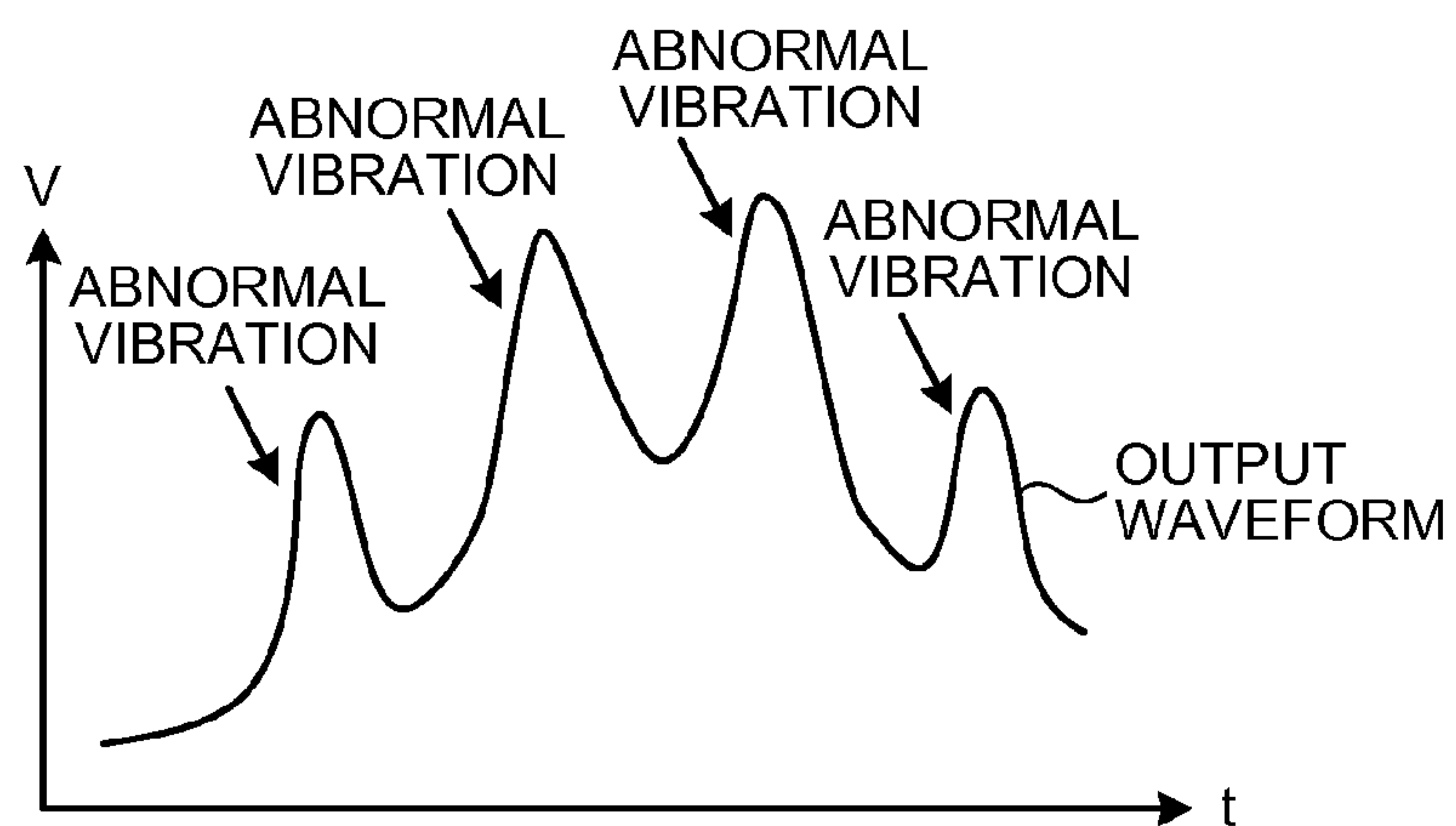


FIG.39A

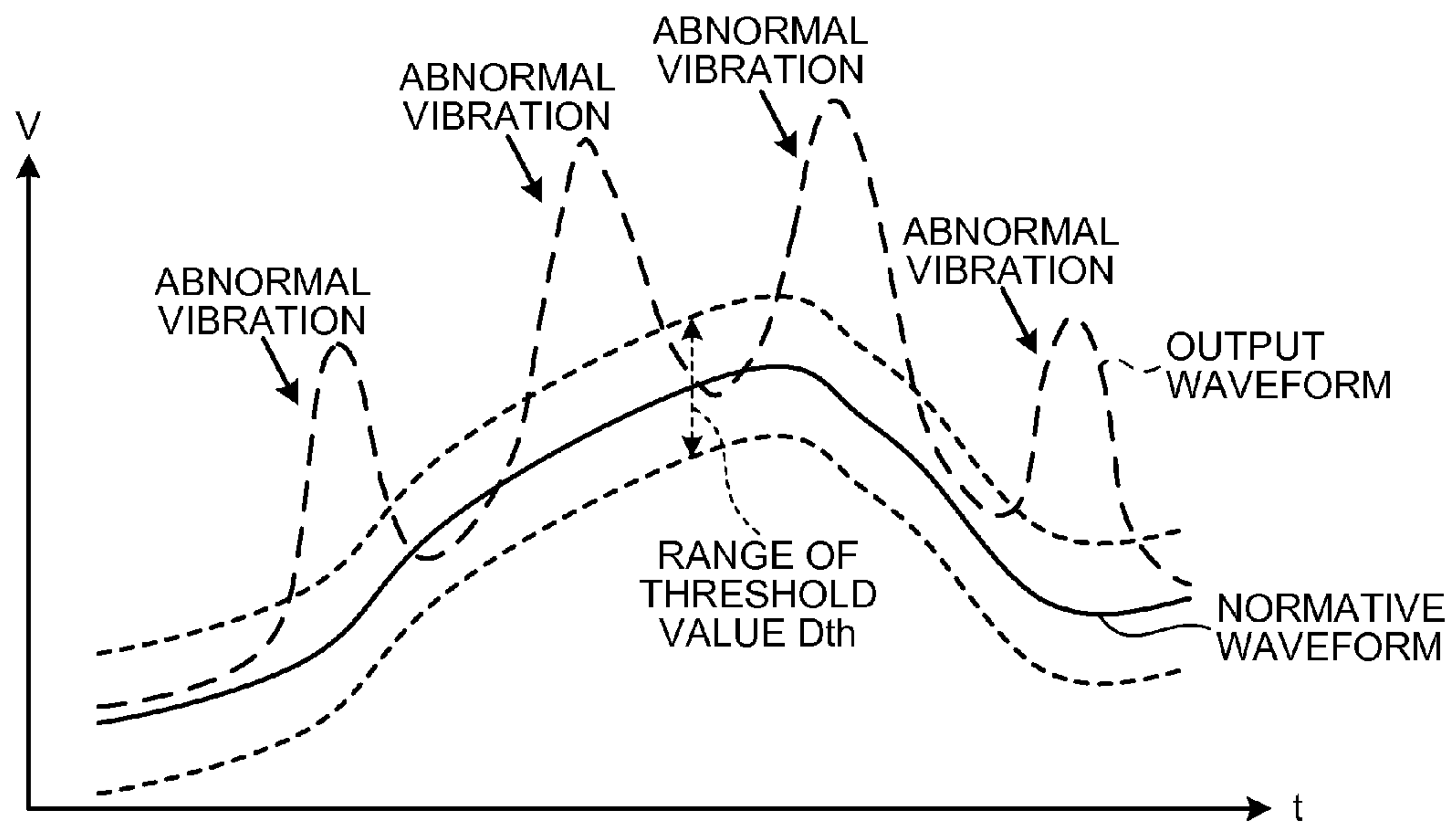


FIG.39B

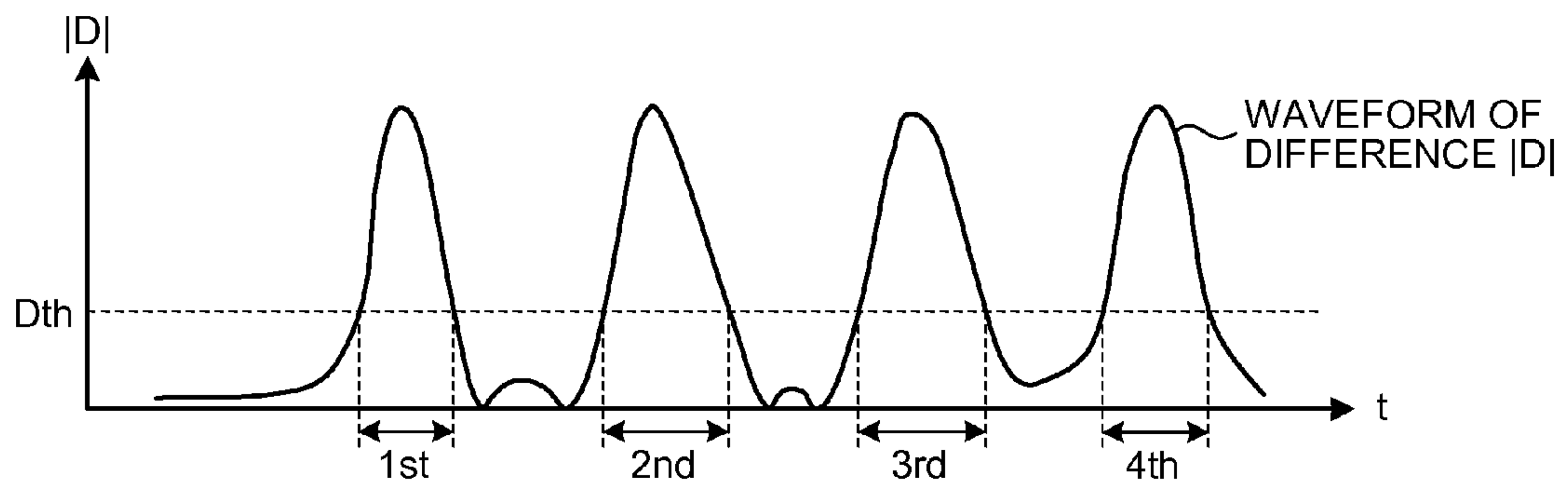


FIG.40

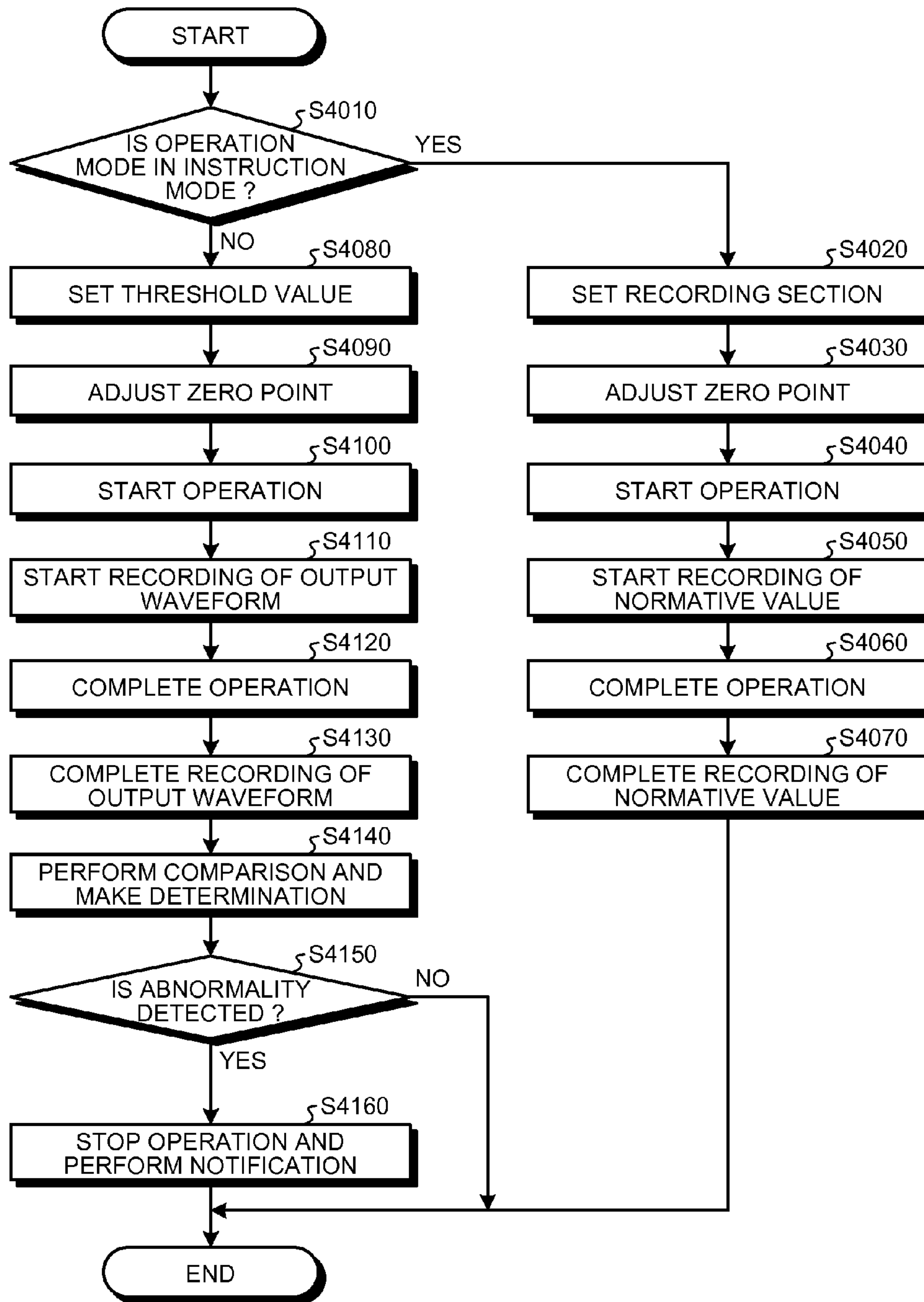


FIG.41

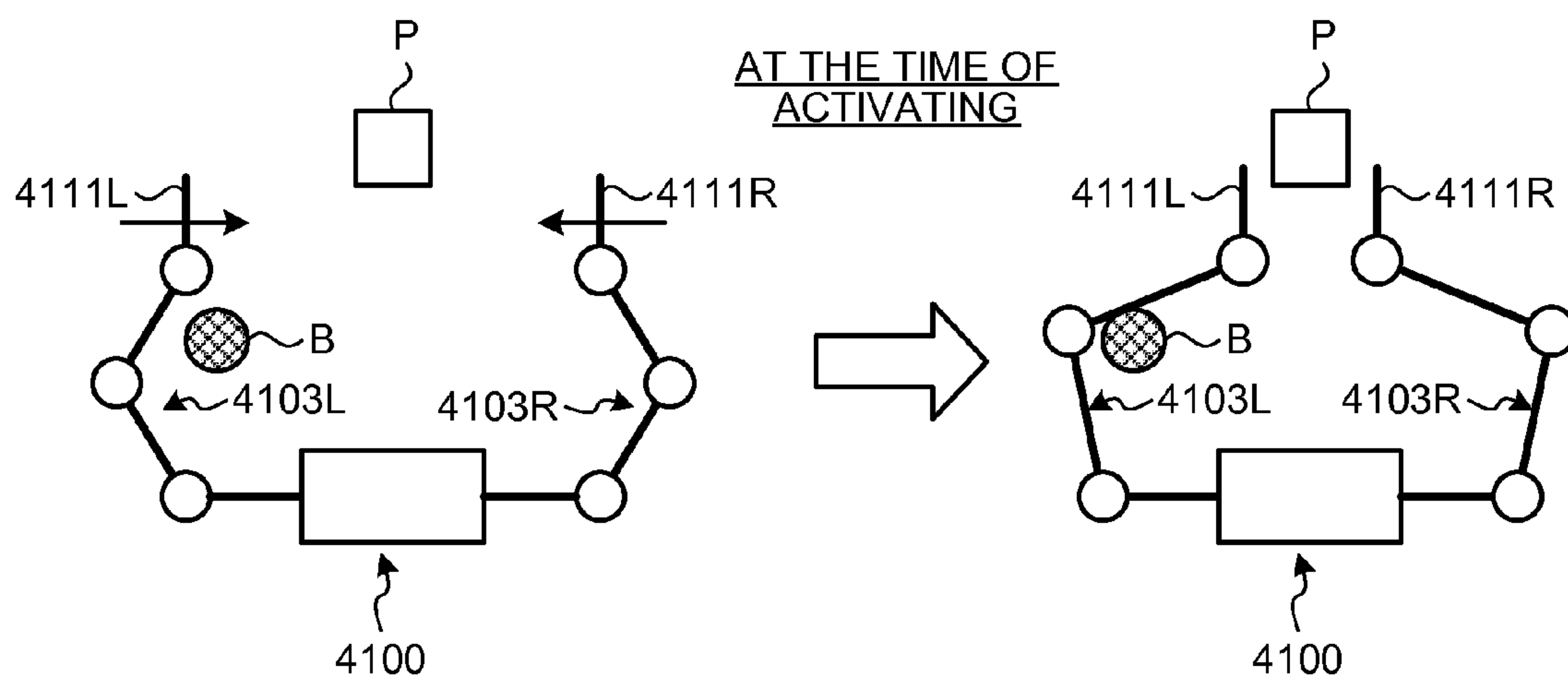


FIG.42

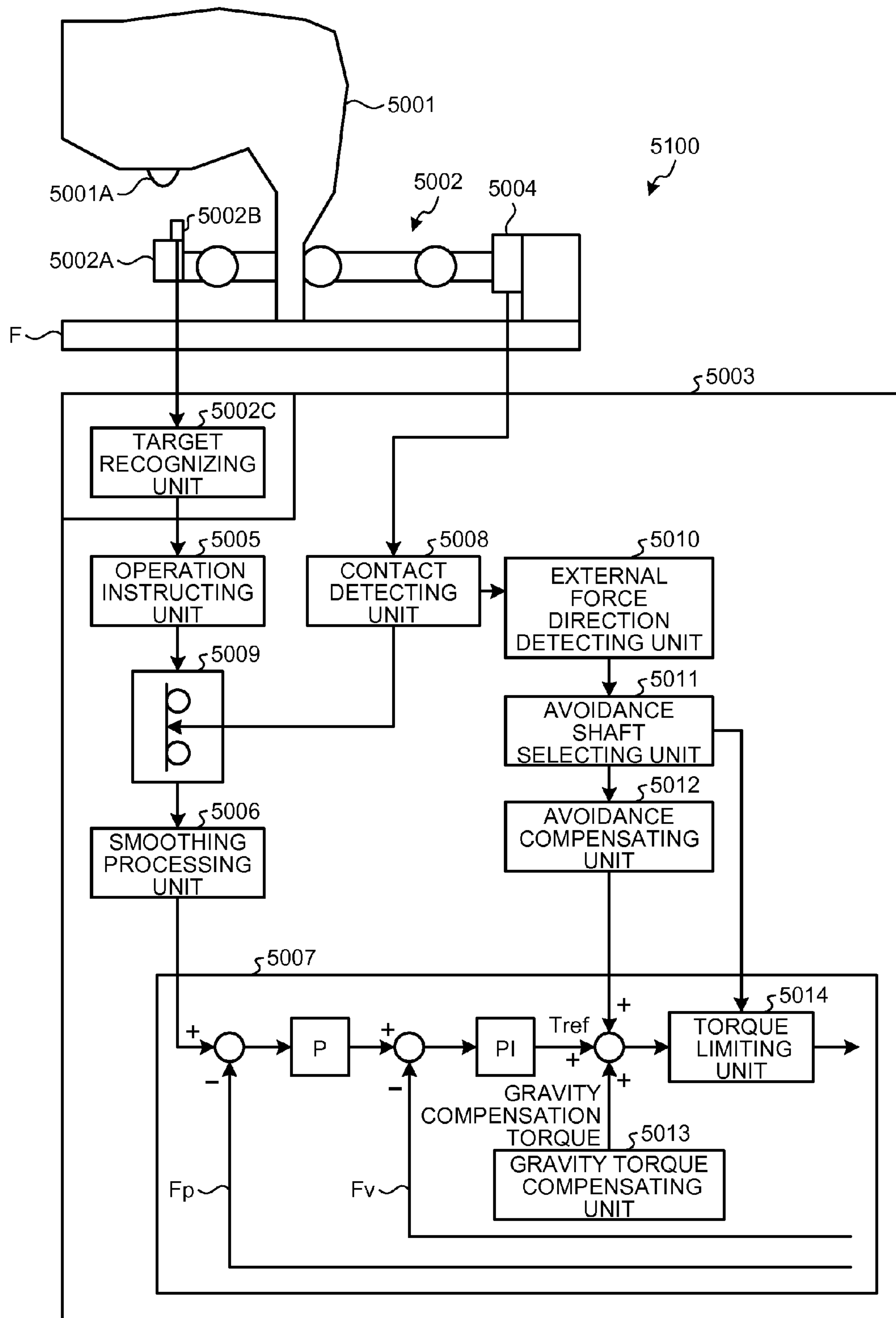


FIG.43

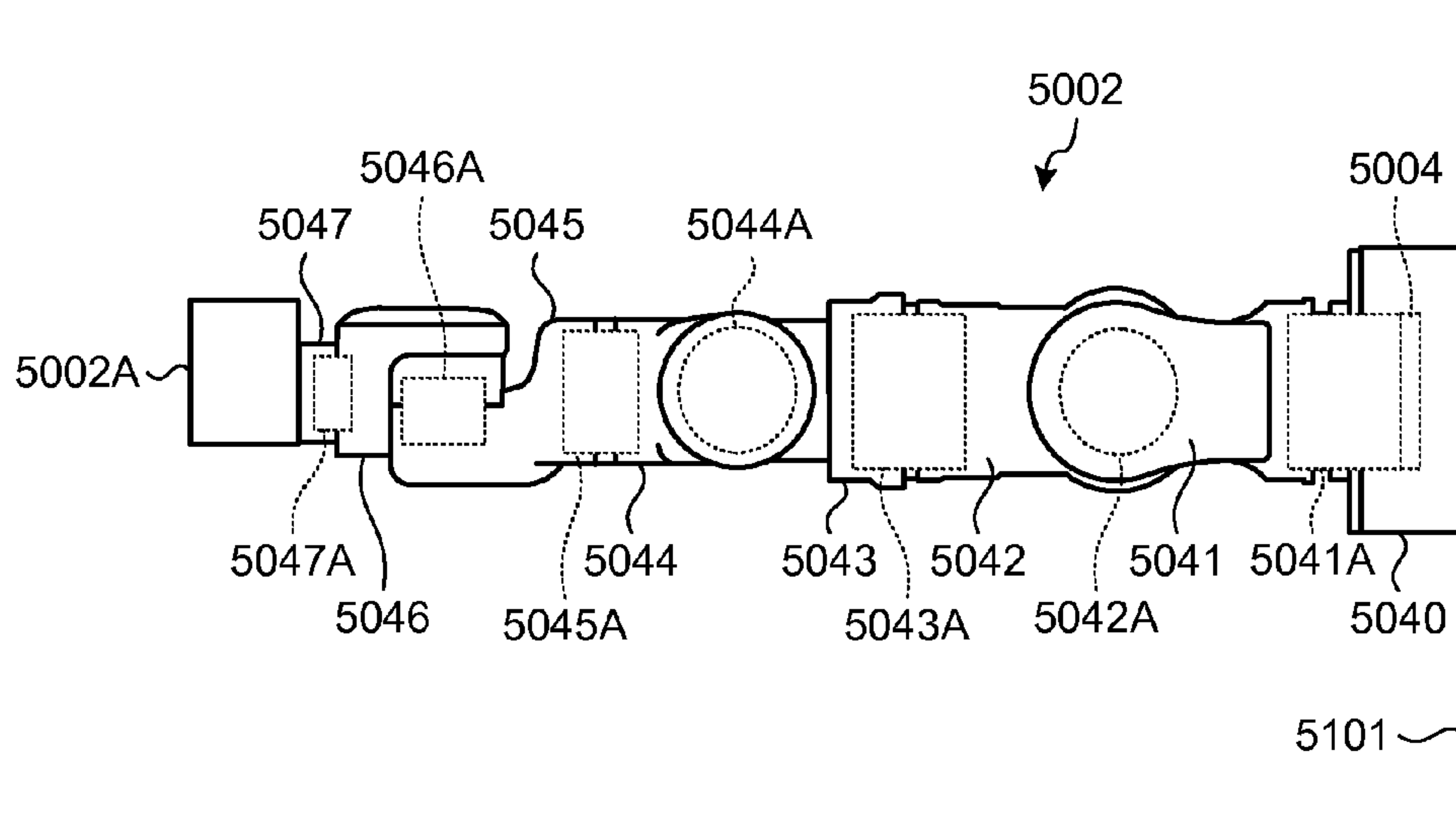


FIG.44

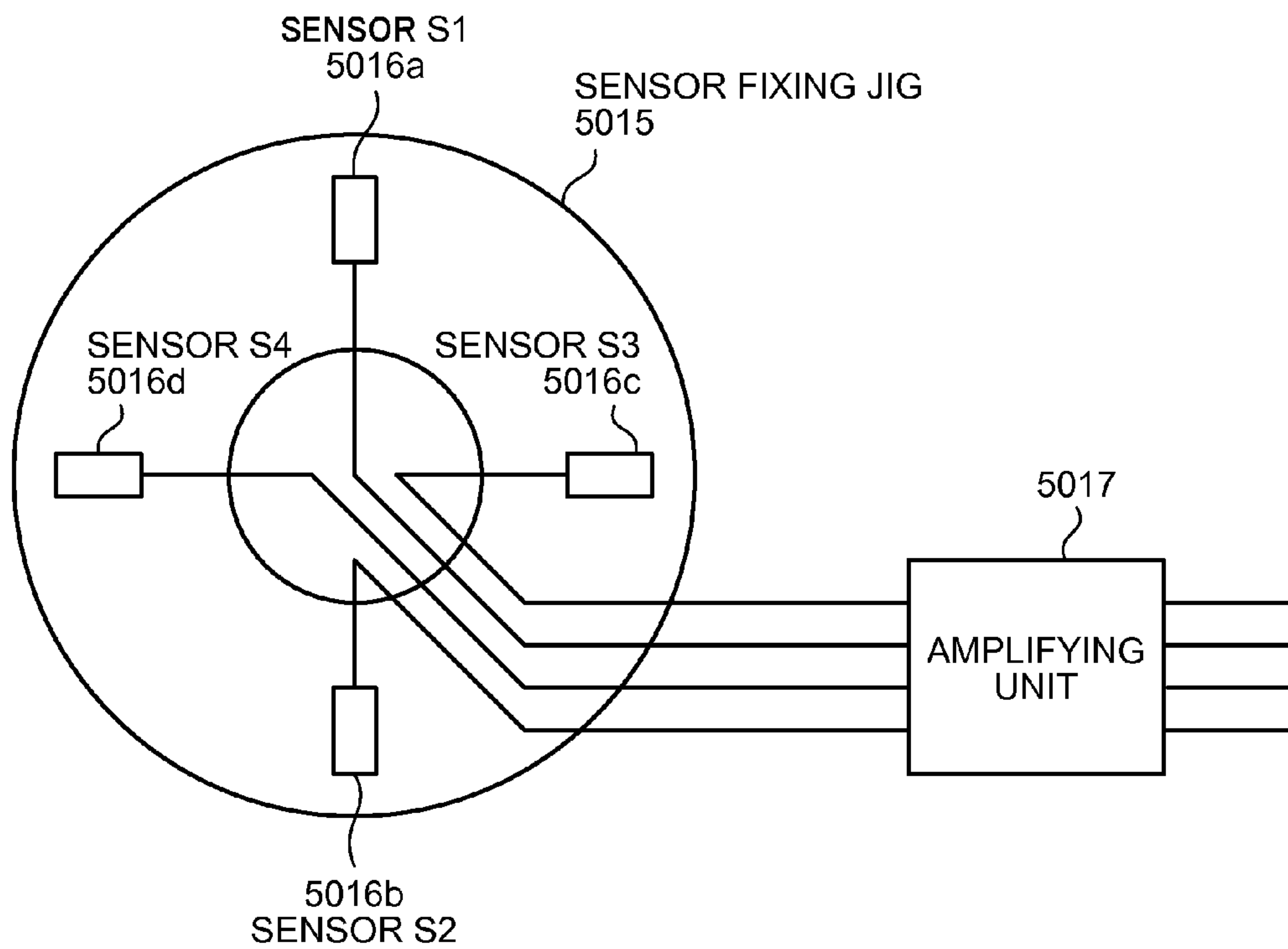


FIG.45

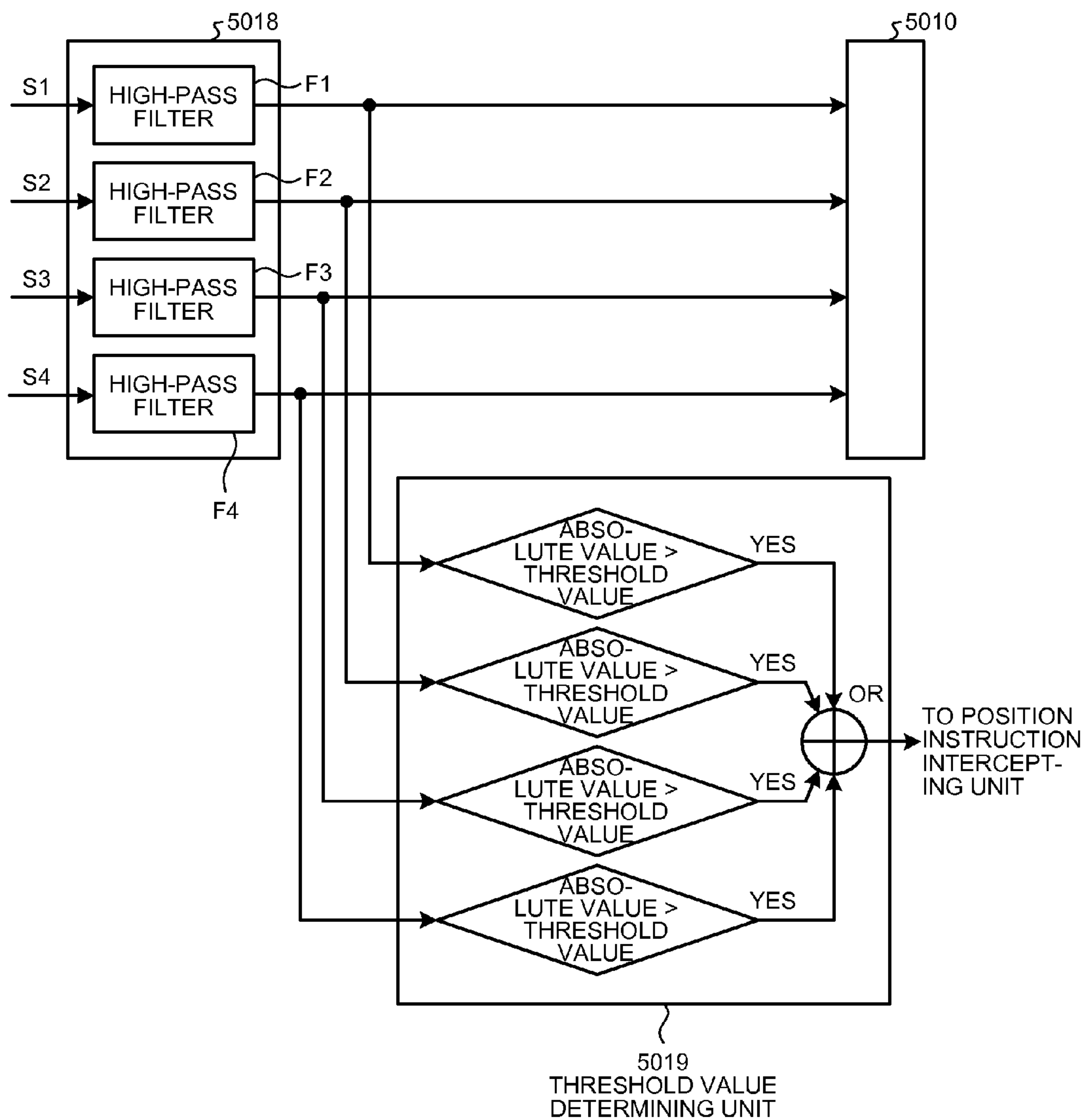


FIG.46

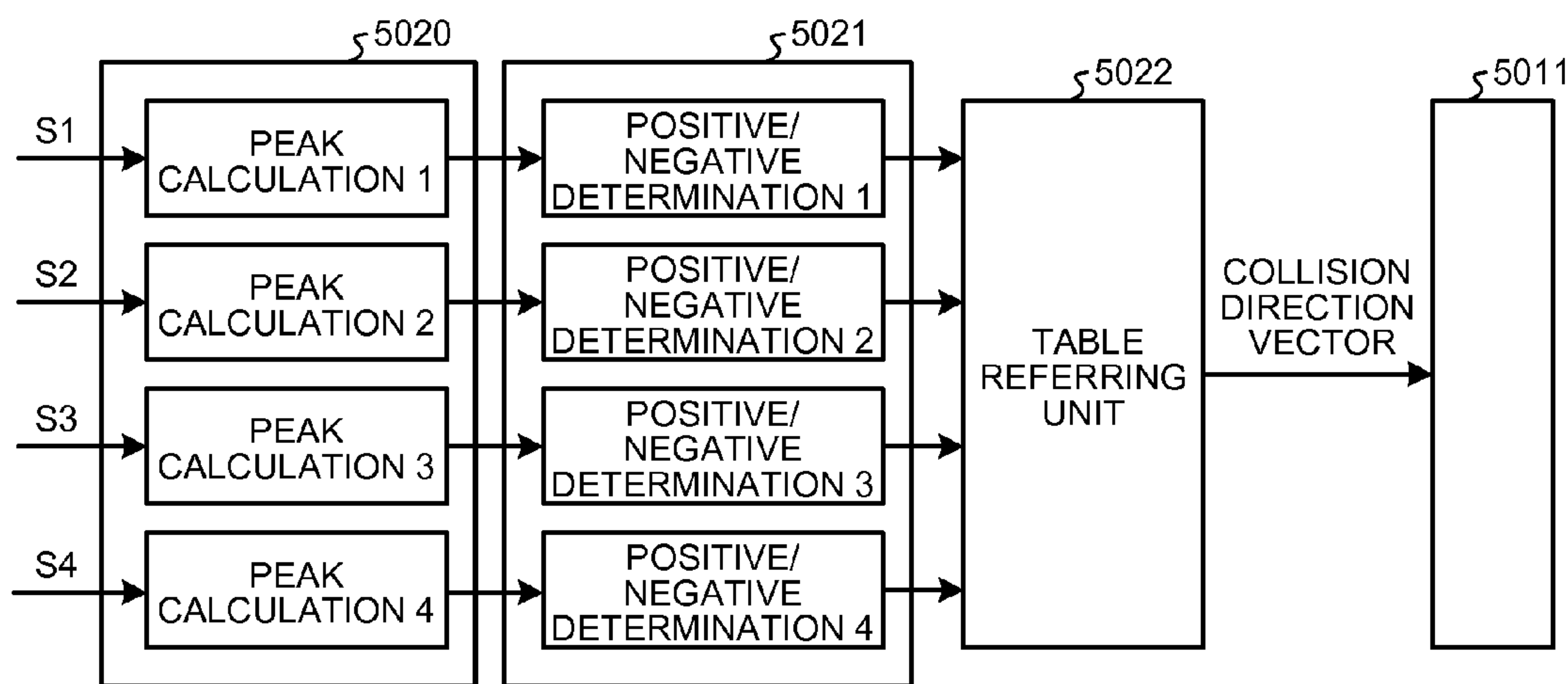


FIG.47

POSITIVE/NEGATIVE OF EACH SENSOR SIGNAL PEAK VALUE				COLLISION DIRECTION VECTOR
S1	S2	S3	S4	
1	-1	1	-1	V2
1	-1	-1	1	V8
1	-1	0	0	V1
-1	1	1	-1	V4
-1	1	-1	1	V6
-1	1	0	0	V5
0	0	1	-1	V3
0	0	-1	1	V7
COMBINATIONS OTHER THAN ABOVE				DETERMINATION IMPOSSIBILITY

FIG.48

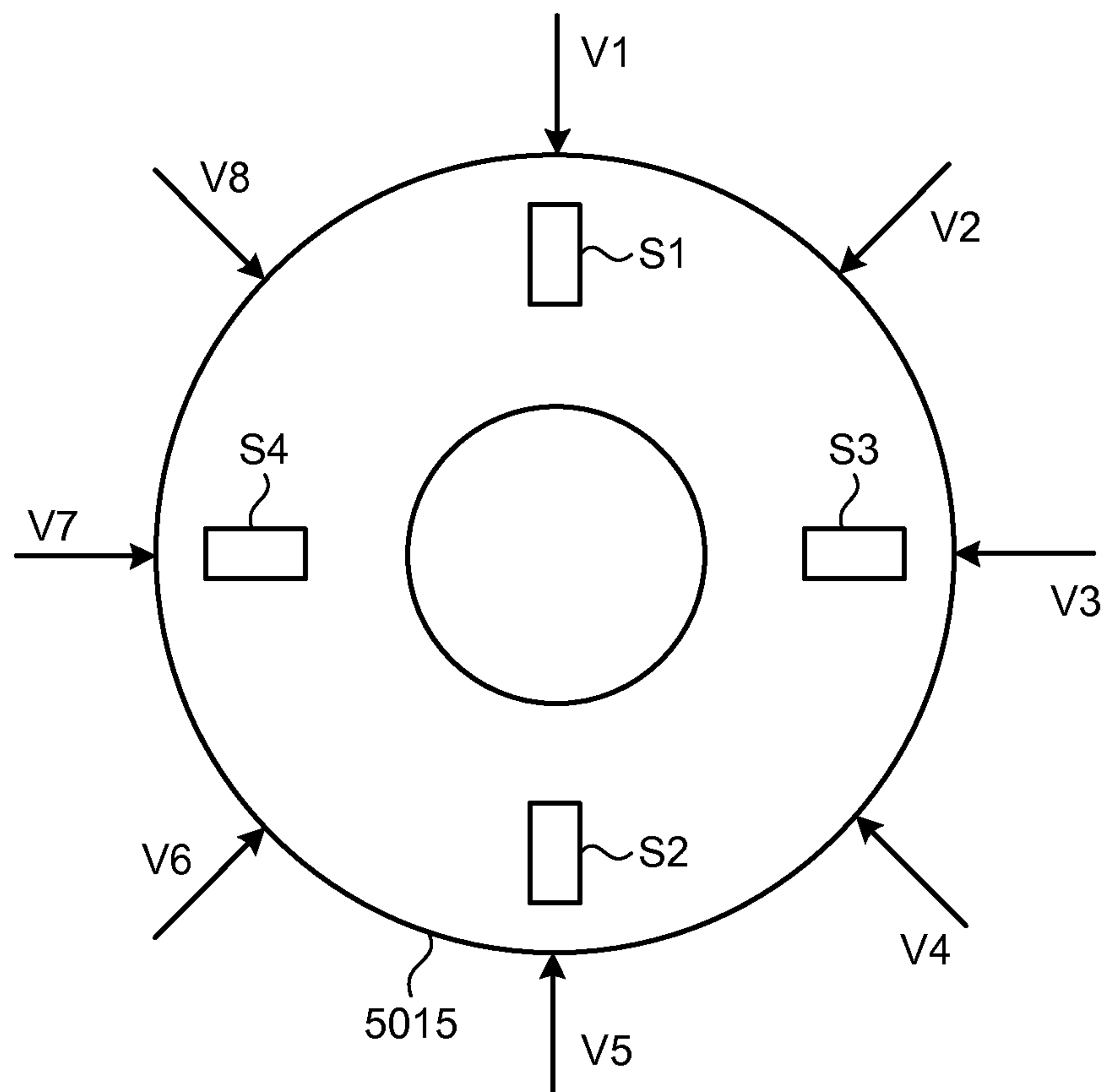


FIG.49

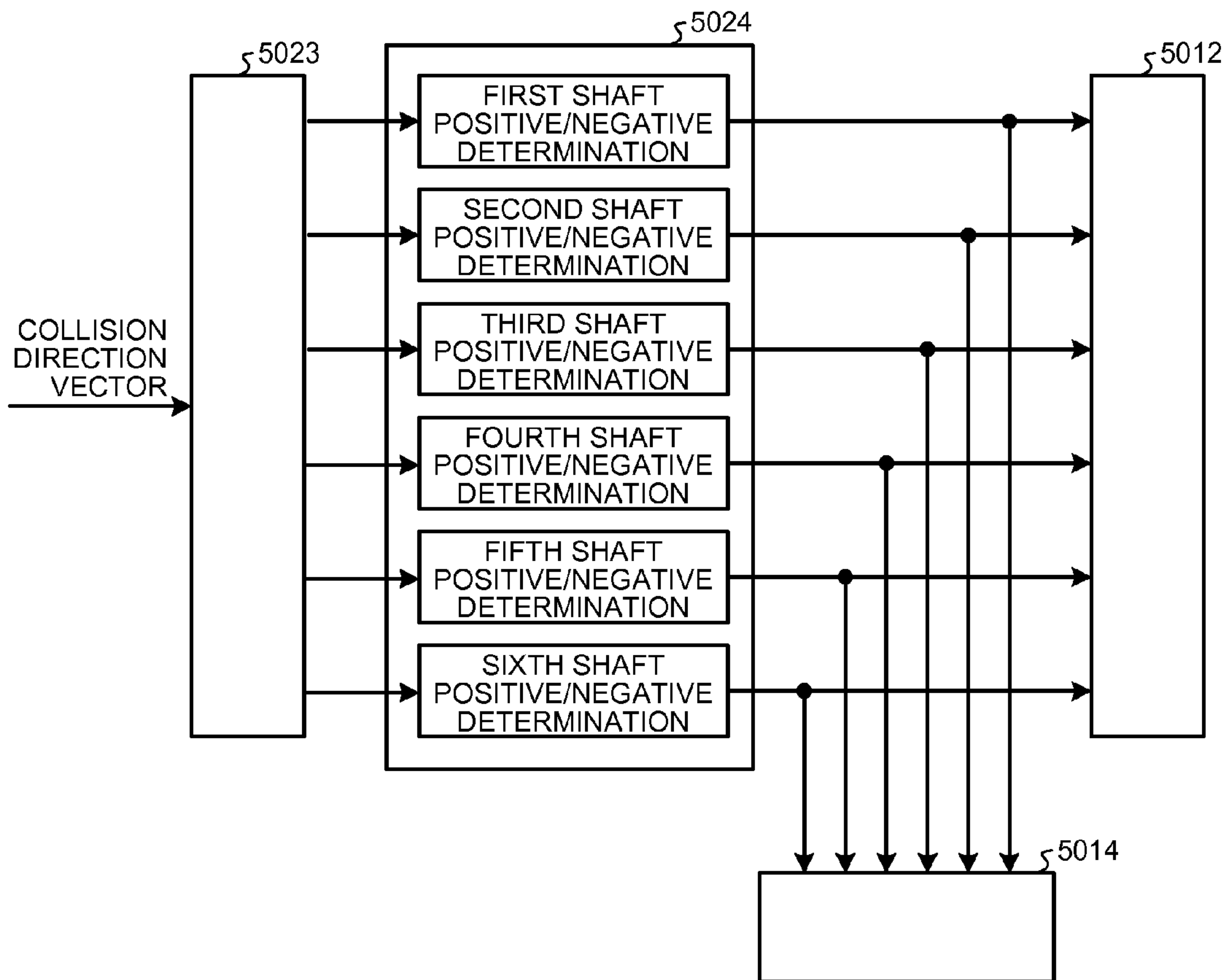


FIG.50

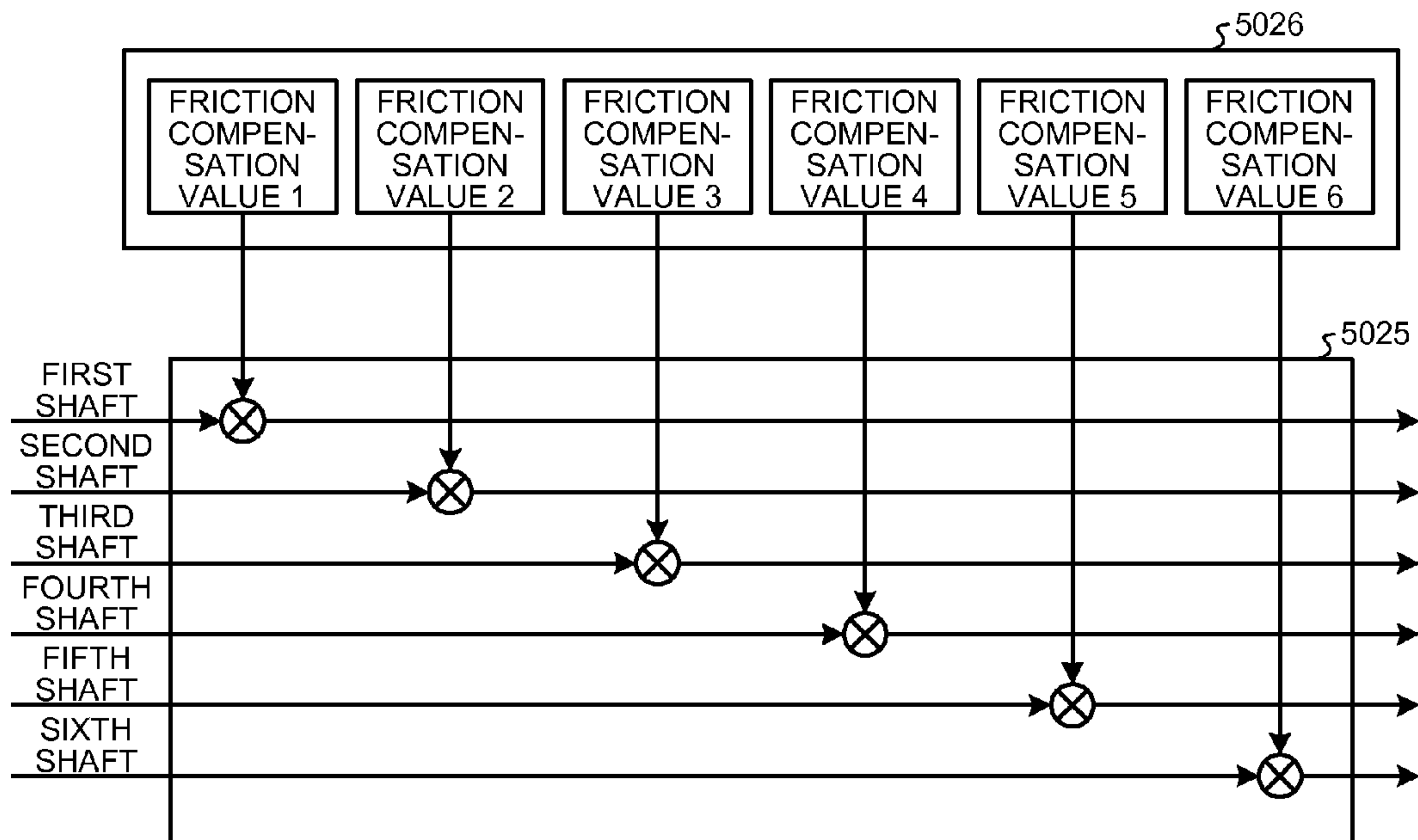


FIG.51

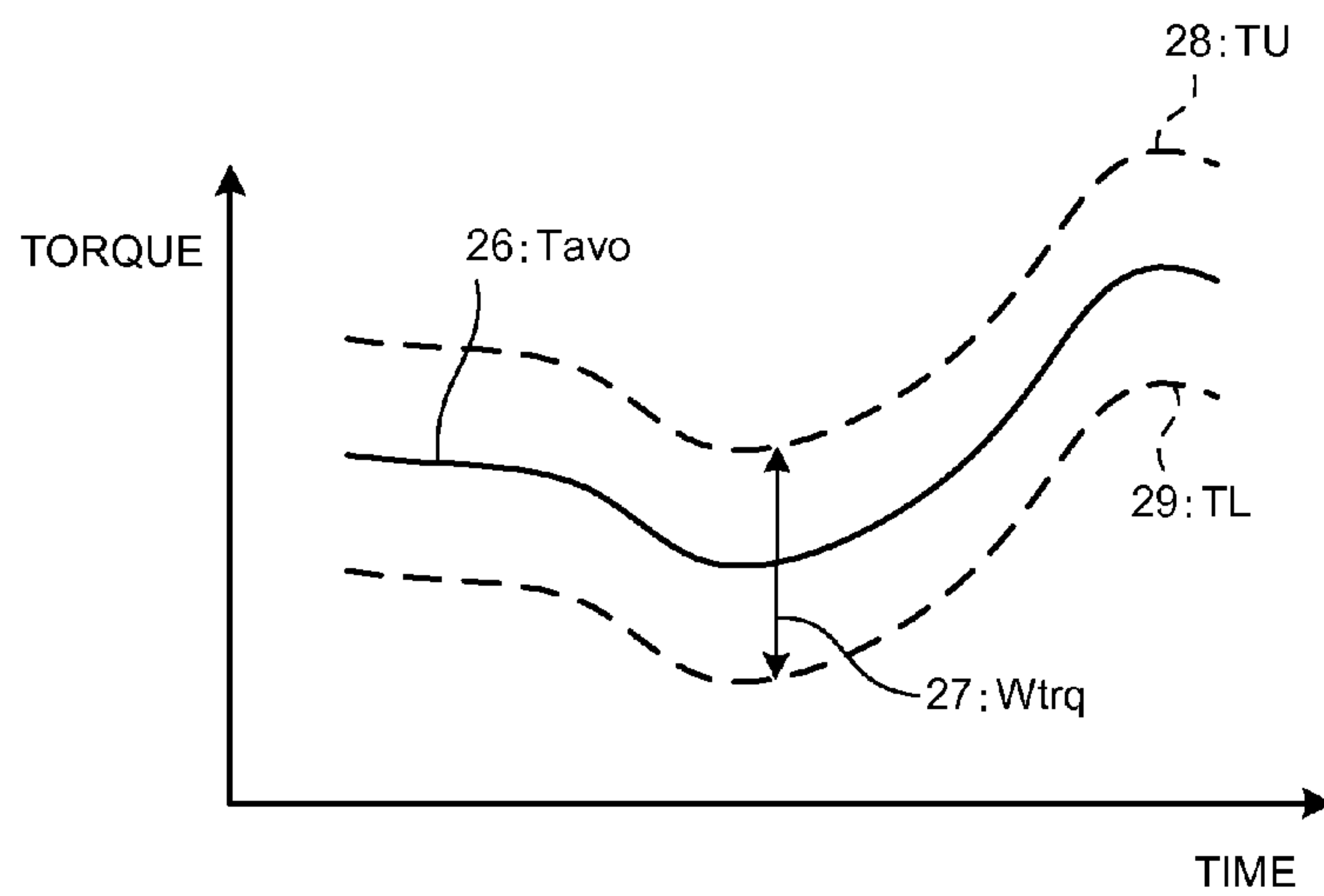


FIG.52

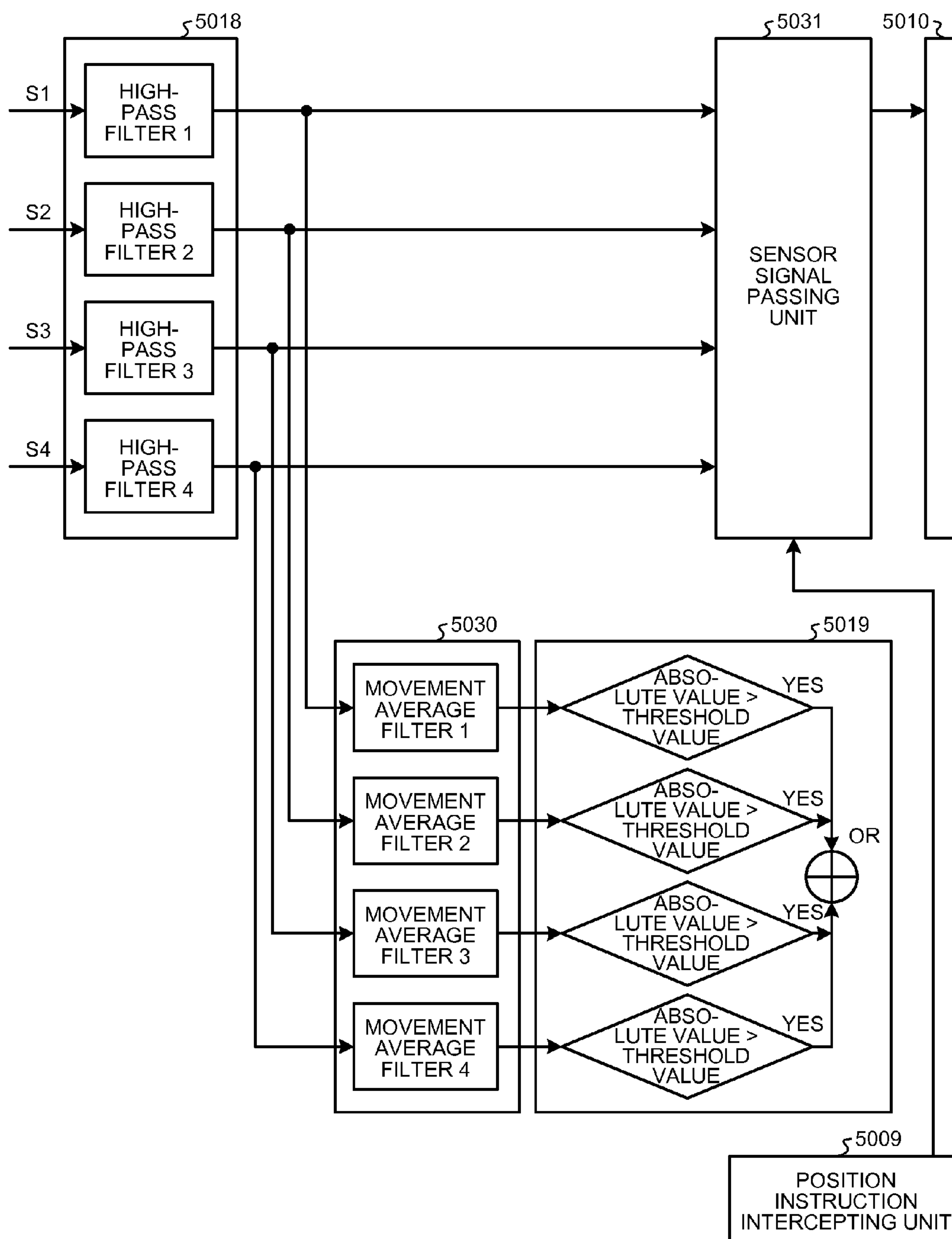


FIG. 53

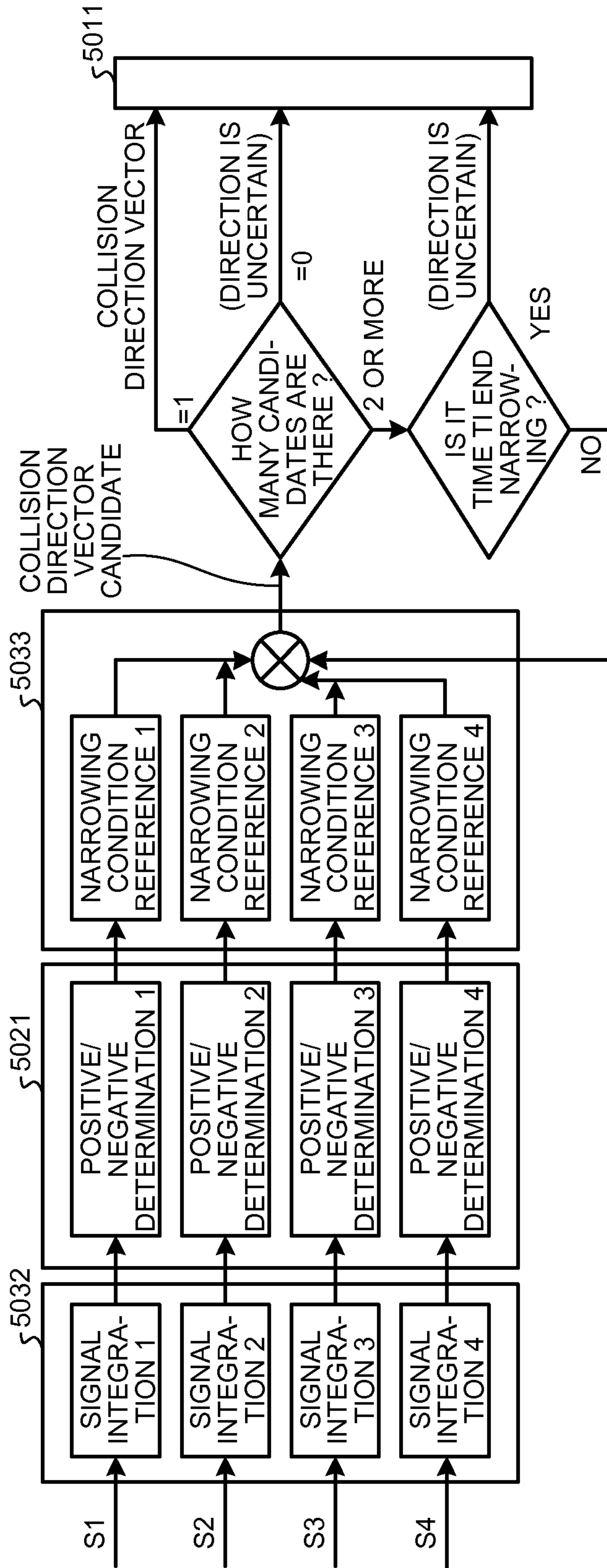


FIG.54

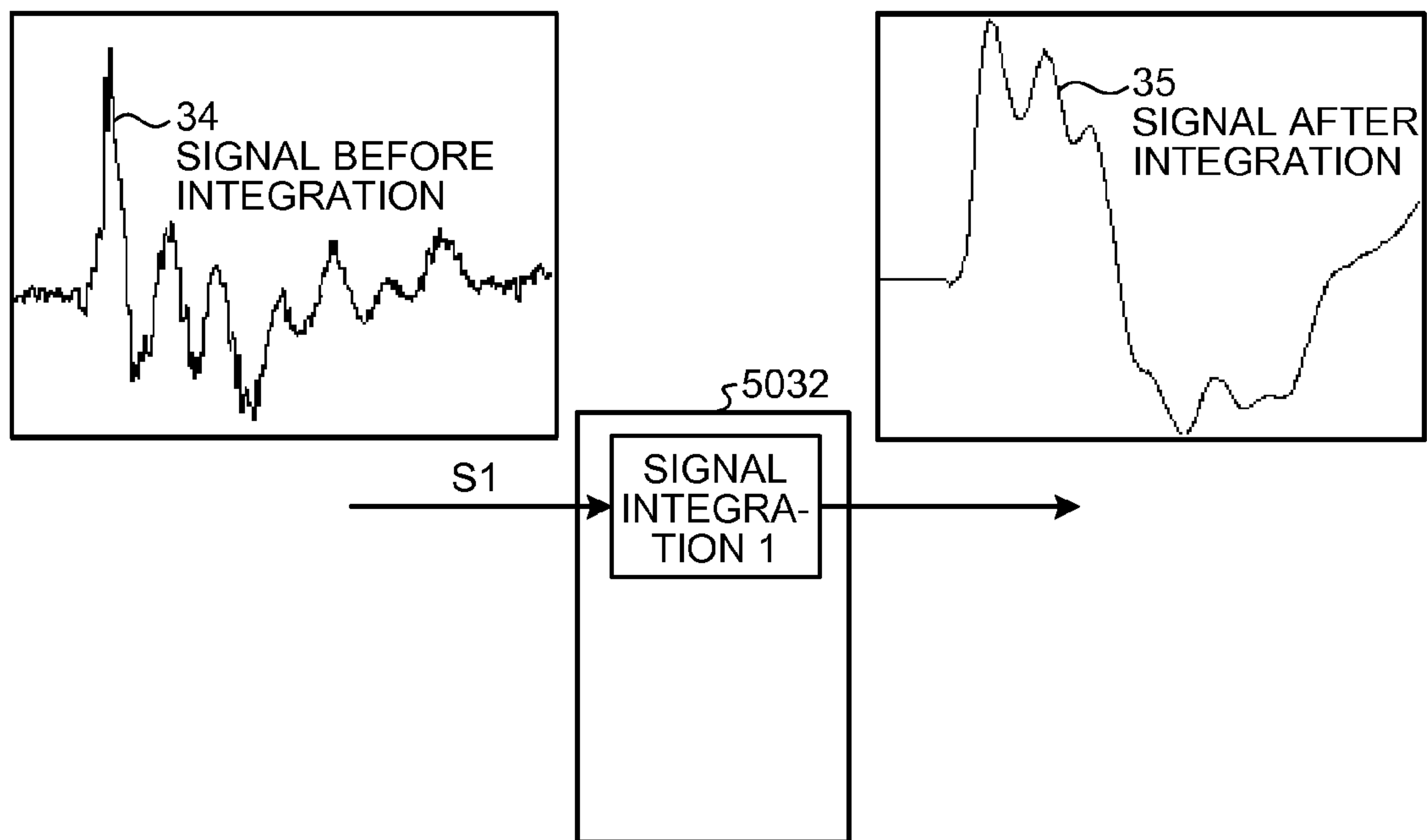


FIG.55

POSITIVE/NEGATIVE CONDITION OF INTEGRATION VALUE AT TIME X1		CANDIDATES FOR COLLISION DIRECTION VECTOR
POSITIVE/NEGATIVE OF INTEGRATION VALUE OF S1	NEG-ATIVE	V1, V3, V7
	0	V1, V3, V5, V7
	POS-ITIVE	V3, V5, V7
POSITIVE/NEGATIVE OF INTEGRATION VALUE OF S2	NEG-ATIVE	V1, V5, V7
	0	V1, V3, V5, V7
	POS-ITIVE	V1, V3, V5
POSITIVE/NEGATIVE OF INTEGRATION VALUE OF S3	NEG-ATIVE	V3, V5, V7
	0	V1, V3, V5, V7
	POS-ITIVE	V1, V3, V7
POSITIVE/NEGATIVE OF INTEGRATION VALUE OF S4	NEG-ATIVE	V1, V3, V5
	0	V1, V3, V5, V7
	POS-ITIVE	V1, V5, V7

POSITIVE/NEGATIVE CONDITION OF INTEGRATION VALUE AT TIME X2		CANDIDATES FOR COLLISION DIRECTION VECTOR
POSITIVE/NEGATIVE OF INTEGRATION VALUE OF S1
POSITIVE/NEGATIVE OF INTEGRATION VALUE OF S2

POSITIVE/NEGATIVE CONDITION OF INTEGRATION VALUE AT TIME X3
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POSITIVE/NEGATIVE CONDITION OF INTEGRATION VALUE AT TIME X4
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FIG.56

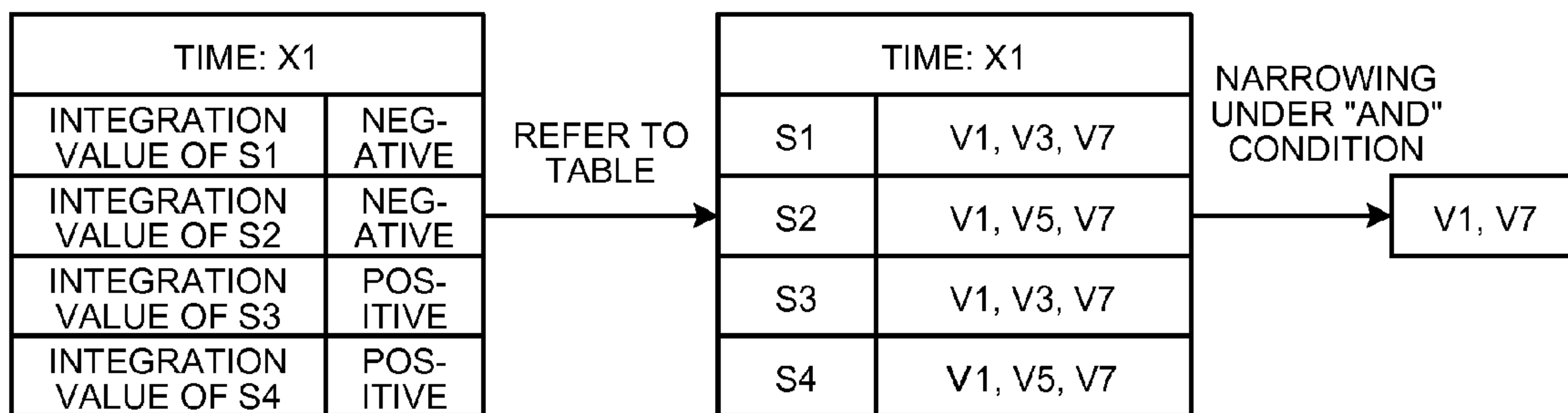


FIG.57

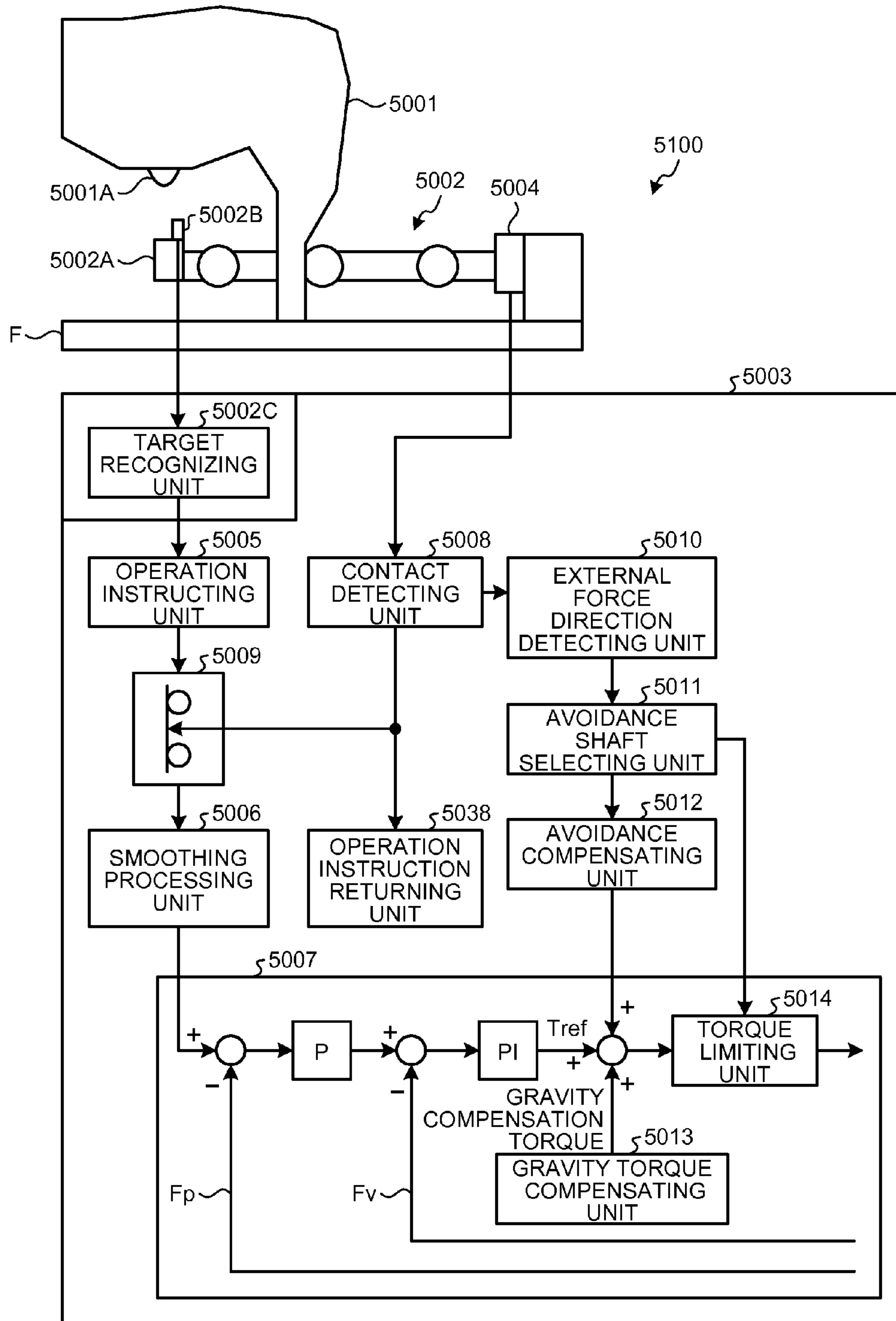


FIG.58

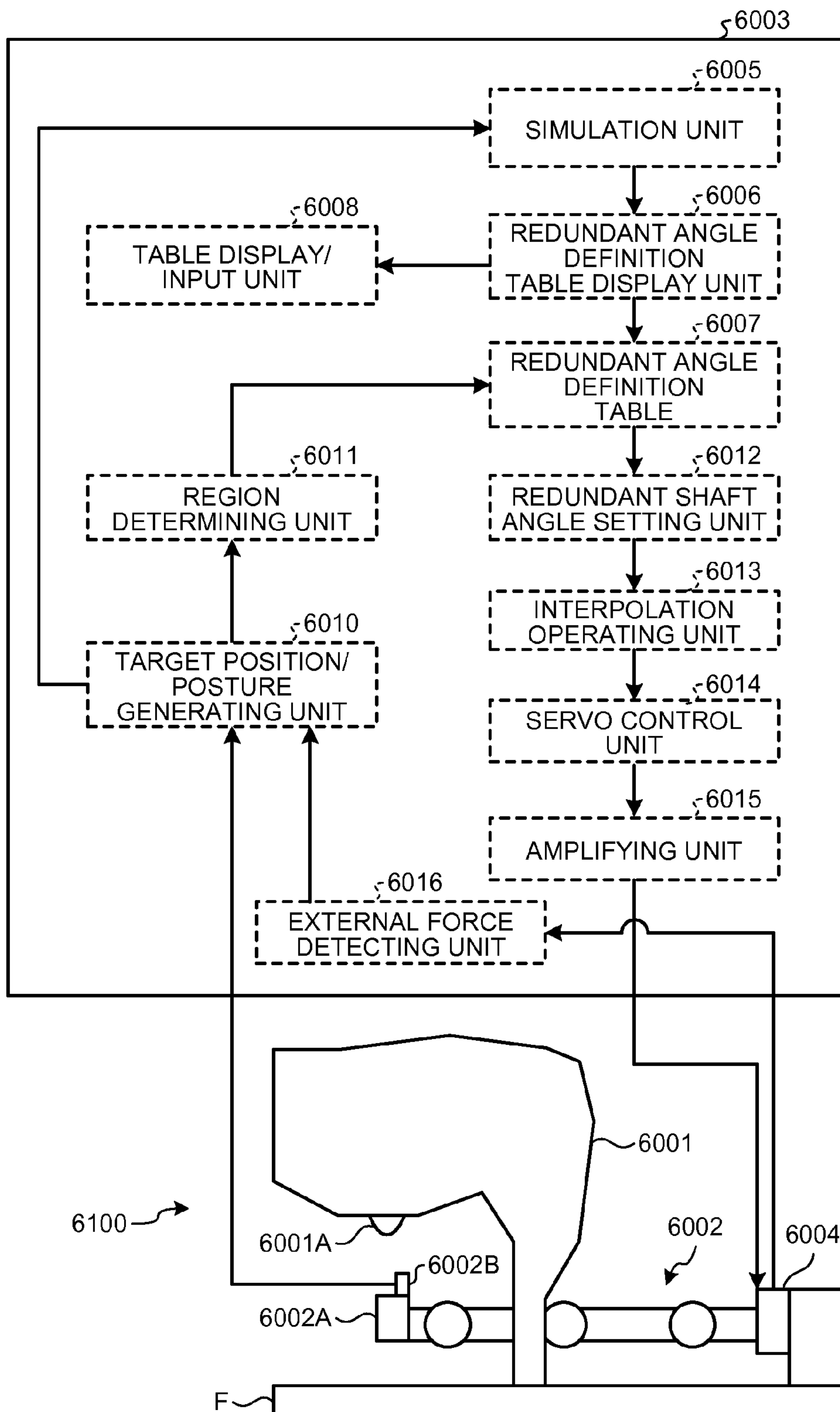


FIG.59

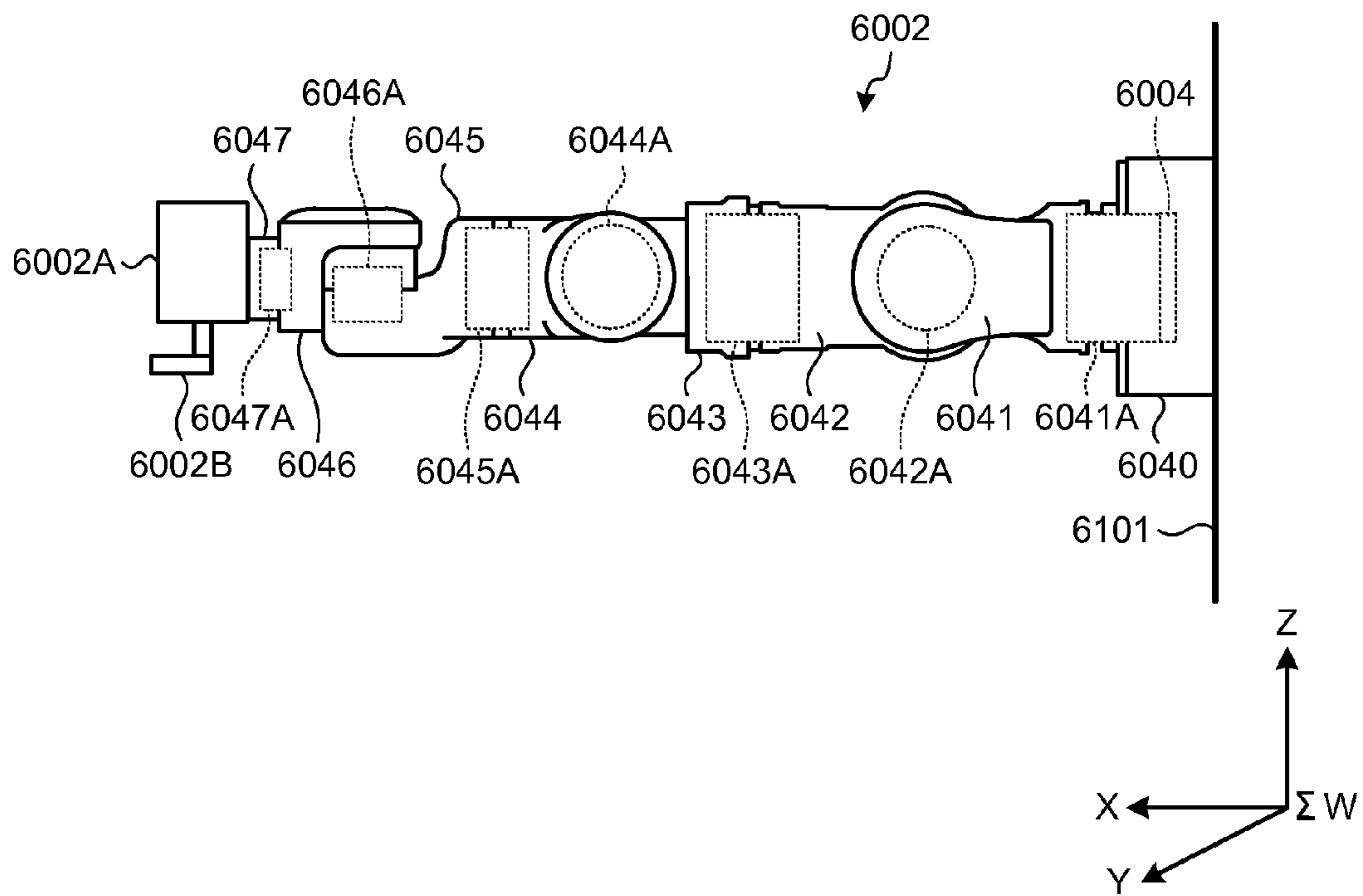


FIG.60

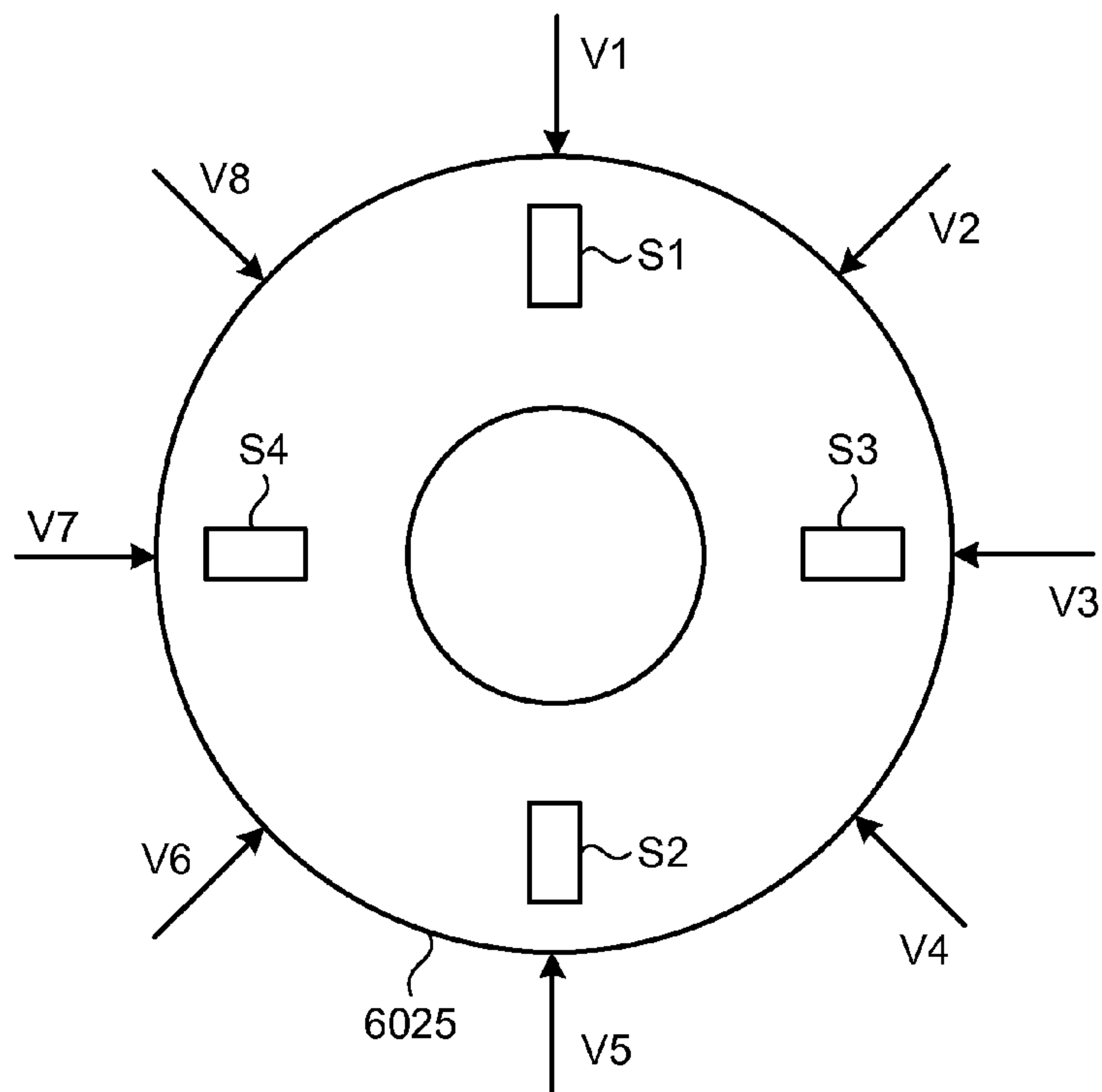


FIG.61

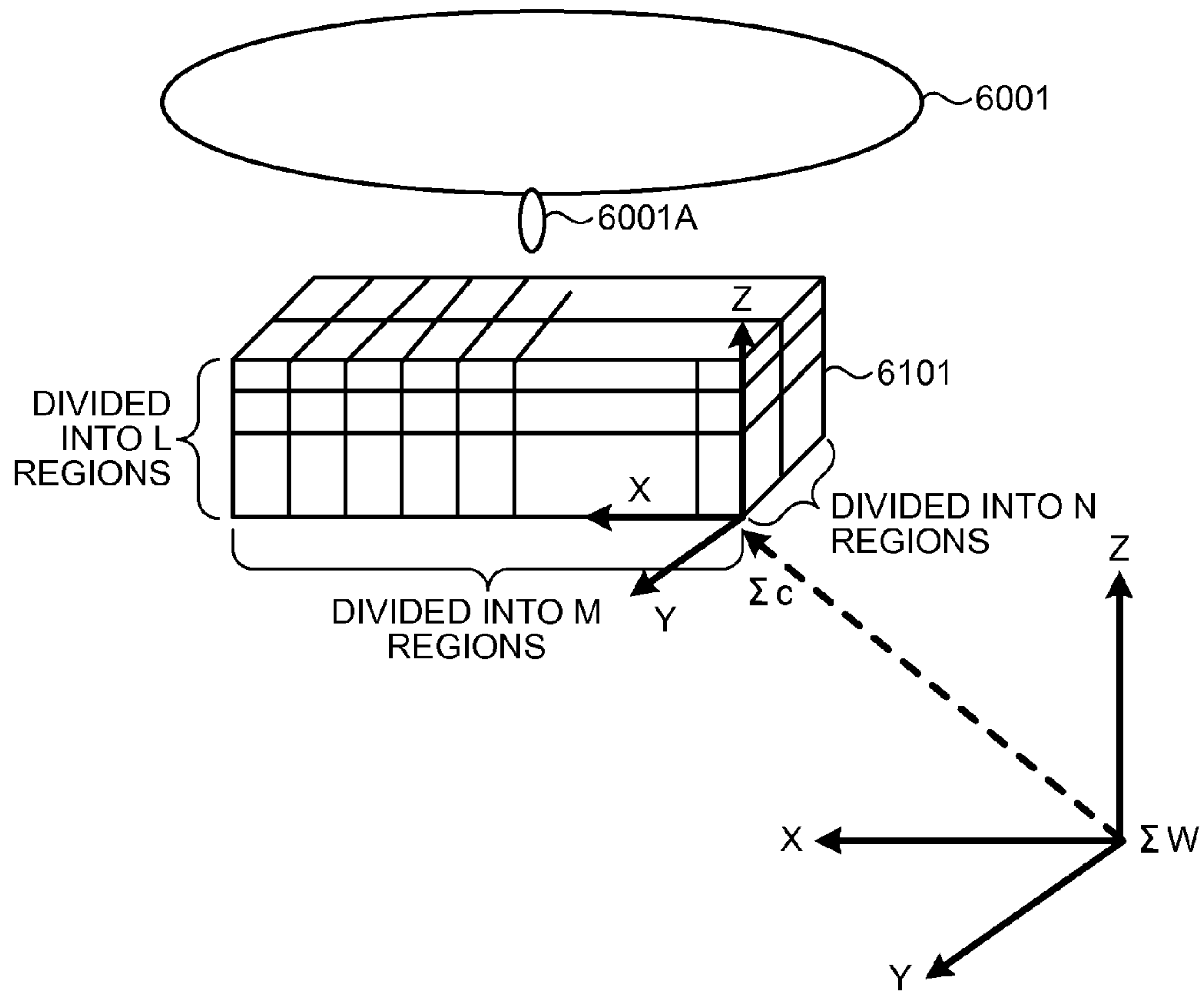
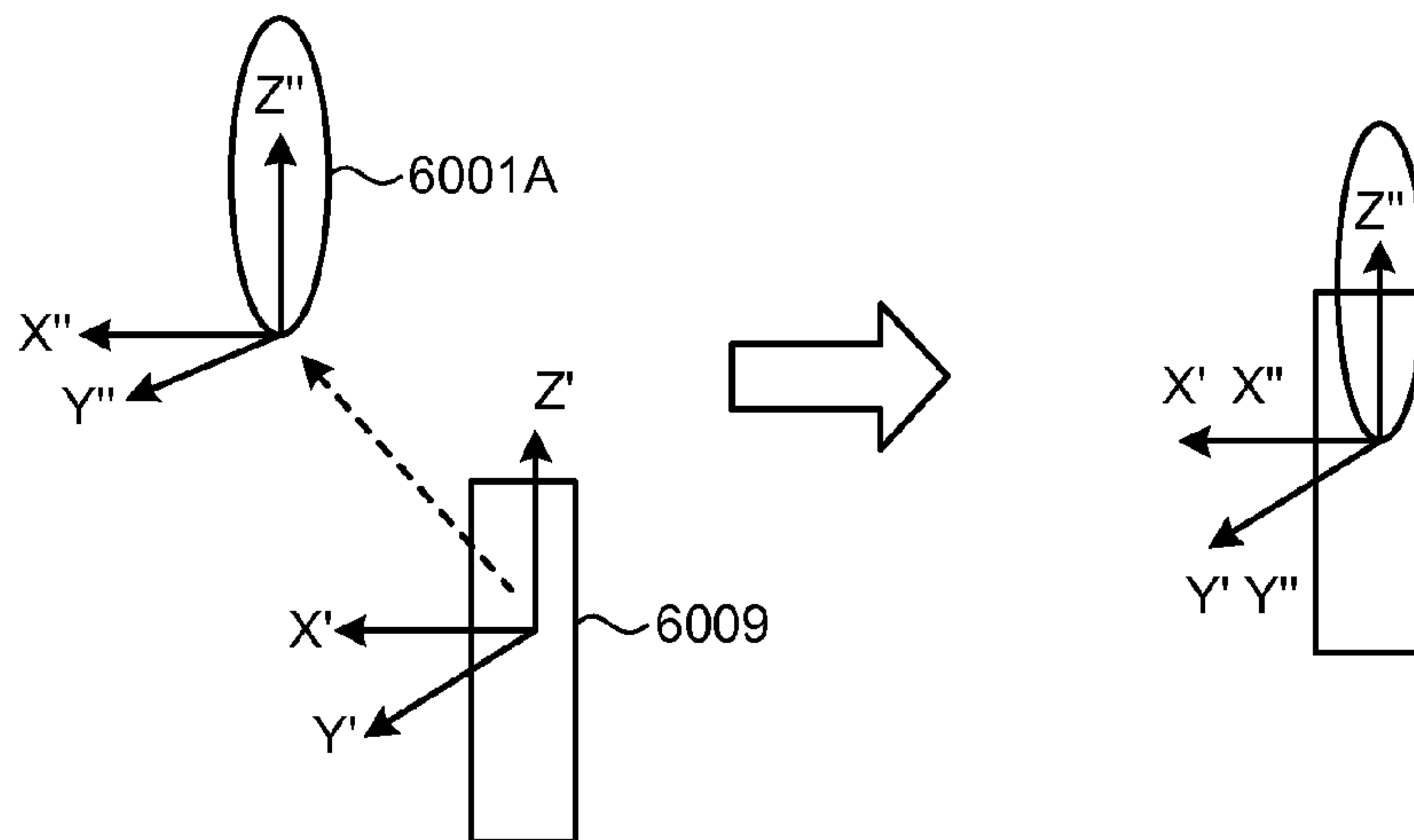


FIG.62



1

**ROBOT SYSTEM, CONTROL DEVICE OF
ROBOT, AND ROBOT CONTROL DEVICE**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS

The present application is a divisional application of the U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/221,868 filed Aug. 30, 2011, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to Japanese Patent Application No. 2010-193717, filed on Aug. 31, 2010; Japanese Patent Application No. 2010-193718, filed on Aug. 31, 2010; Japanese Patent Application No. 2010-293843, filed on Dec. 28, 2010; Japanese Patent Application No. 2010-293844, filed on Dec. 28, 2010; Japanese Patent Application No. 2010-293845, filed on Dec. 28, 2010; and Japanese Patent Application No. 2010-293846, filed on Dec. 28, 2010. The contents of these applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

FIELD

The embodiments discussed in the present application are directed to a robot system, a control device of a robot, and a robot control device.

BACKGROUND

From the past, in the field of robotics, it is preferable to prevent an excessive load from acting on a robot or an object existing around the robot. For this reason, various technologies for detecting generation or non-generation of a contact (external force) to the robot are studied. For example, a technology is known which installs a force detector in a base end of a robot arm to detect the external force, and stops an operation of the robot arm on the basis of the detection result of the force detector or causing the robot arm to move in the direction capable of reducing the effect of the external force when the excessive external force is applied. The relevant technologies of the related art are described, for example, in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (JP-A) Nos. 2006-21287 and 2007-203380.

However, in the related art in which the force detector is simply provided in the robot, the response of the force detector to the contact of the robot arm is late, which may become an obstacle in detecting a light or momentary touch with a high degree of precision and improving the functionality of the robot.

SUMMARY

A robot according to an aspect of the embodiment includes a robot arm, one or more actuators that are provided in the robot arm to drive the robot arm, a sensor unit that detects an external force applied to at least one of the robot arm and the actuators, and a controller that controls an operation of each of the actuators and limits a torque instruction value for each of the actuators on the basis of a detection result of the sensor unit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

A more complete appreciation of the invention and many of the attendant advantages thereof will be readily obtained as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

2

FIG. 1 is a conceptual diagram illustrating the entire configuration of a robot system that includes a robot according to a first embodiment.

FIG. 2 is a top view illustrating the configuration of the robot according to the first embodiment.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of a robot controller according to the first embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of an abnormality detecting unit according to the first embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating the detailed configuration of sensor units, a high-pass filter unit, and a comparing/determining unit according to the first embodiment.

FIGS. 6A and 6B are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by arms according to the first embodiment in a state in which there is no abnormality and an output value of a sensor of a sensor during the predetermined operation.

FIGS. 7A and 7B are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms according to the first embodiment at the time of activating and an output value of the sensor during the predetermined operation.

FIGS. 8A and 8B are diagrams illustrating an example of a method of detecting whether there is abnormality in the arms according to the first embodiment.

FIG. 9 is a flowchart illustrating a control sequence that is executed by the robot controller according to the first embodiment.

FIG. 10 is a schematic view illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms at the time of activating, in a modification that is applied to detection of a contact of an object.

FIG. 11 is a conceptual diagram illustrating the entire configuration of a robot system that includes a robot according to a second embodiment.

FIG. 12 is a top view illustrating the configuration of the robot according to the second embodiment.

FIG. 13 is a diagram illustrating an inspected object according to the second embodiment.

FIG. 14 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of a robot controller according to the second embodiment.

FIG. 15 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of an abnormality detecting unit according to the second embodiment.

FIG. 16 is a diagram illustrating an output value V of a sensor when arms according to the second embodiment execute a predetermined operation with respect to an inspected object in which there is no abnormality.

FIG. 17 is a diagram illustrating an output value V of a sensor when the arm according to the second embodiment executes a predetermined operation with respect to the inspected object, at the time of activating.

FIGS. 18A and 18B are diagrams illustrating an example of a method of detecting whether there is abnormality in the inspected object according to the second embodiment.

FIG. 19 is a flowchart illustrating a control sequence that is executed by the robot controller according to the second embodiment.

FIG. 20 is a top view illustrating the configuration of a robot according to a modification that is applied to detection of a contact of an object.

FIG. 21 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms with respect to the inspected object, at the time of inspecting.

3

FIG. 22 is a conceptual diagram illustrating the entire configuration of a robot system according to a third embodiment.

FIG. 23 is a top view illustrating the configuration of the robot according to the third embodiment.

FIG. 24 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of a robot controller according to the third embodiment.

FIG. 25 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of a contact detecting unit according to the third embodiment.

FIG. 26 is a diagram illustrating the detailed configuration of sensor units, a high-pass filter unit, and a determining unit according to the third embodiment.

FIGS. 27A and 27B are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by arms according to the third embodiment in a state in which an object does not contact the arm and an output value of a sensor during the predetermined operation.

FIGS. 28A and 28B are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms according to the third embodiment at the time of activating and an output value of a sensor during the predetermined operation.

FIGS. 29A and 29B are diagrams illustrating a method of detecting whether the object contacts the arms according to the third embodiment.

FIG. 30 is a flowchart illustrating a control sequence of a state determining method of the robot that is executed by the robot controller according to the third embodiment.

FIG. 31 is a schematic view illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arm at the time of activating, in a modification that is applied to detection of a contact of an obstacle.

FIG. 32 is a conceptual diagram illustrating the entire configuration of a robot system according to a fourth embodiment.

FIG. 33 is a top view illustrating the configuration of the robot according to the fourth embodiment.

FIG. 34 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of a robot controller according to the fourth embodiment.

FIG. 35 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of an abnormality detecting unit according to the fourth embodiment.

FIG. 36 is a diagram illustrating the detailed configuration of sensor units, a high-pass filter unit, and a comparing/determining unit according to the fourth embodiment.

FIGS. 37A and 37B are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by arms according to the fourth embodiment in a state in which there is no abnormality and an output value V of a sensor during the predetermined operation.

FIGS. 38A and 38B are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms according to the fourth embodiment at the time of activating and an output value V of a sensor during the predetermined operation.

FIGS. 39A and 39B are diagrams illustrating an example of a method of detecting whether there is abnormality in the arms according to the fourth embodiment.

FIG. 40 is a flowchart illustrating a control sequence of an abnormality detecting method of the robot that is executed by the robot controller according to the fourth embodiment.

FIG. 41 is a schematic view illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms at the time of activating, in a modification that is applied to detection of a contact of an object.

4

FIG. 42 is a schematic diagram illustrating the entire configuration of a robot system according to a fifth embodiment.

FIG. 43 is a side view illustrating the configuration of a robot according to the fifth embodiment.

FIG. 44 is a schematic diagram illustrating the configuration of a sensor unit according to the fifth embodiment.

FIG. 45 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of a contact detecting unit according to the fifth embodiment.

FIG. 46 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of an external force direction detecting unit according to the fifth embodiment.

FIG. 47 is a schematic view illustrating table data according to the fifth embodiment.

FIG. 48 is a diagram illustrating an arrangement relationship of sensors and external force direction vectors according to the fifth embodiment.

FIG. 49 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of an avoidance axis selecting unit according to the fifth embodiment.

FIG. 50 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of an avoidance compensating unit according to the fifth embodiment.

FIG. 51 is a chart illustrating a function of a torque limiting unit according to the fifth embodiment.

FIG. 52 is a block diagram illustrating a contact detecting unit according to a sixth embodiment.

FIG. 53 is a block diagram illustrating an external force direction detecting unit according to the sixth embodiment.

FIG. 54 is a diagram illustrating an example of a signal integration processing result according to the sixth embodiment.

FIG. 55 is a diagram illustrating an example of an external force direction narrowing condition table according to the sixth embodiment.

FIG. 56 is a diagram illustrating an example of external force direction narrowing processing according to the sixth embodiment.

FIG. 57 is a schematic diagram illustrating the entire configuration of a robot system according to a seventh embodiment.

FIG. 58 is a schematic diagram illustrating the entire configuration of a robot system according to an eighth embodiment.

FIG. 59 is a side view illustrating the configuration of a robot according to the eighth embodiment.

FIG. 60 is a schematic diagram illustrating the configuration of a sensor unit according to the eighth embodiment.

FIG. 61 is a schematic diagram illustrating a region of a three-dimensional space that is defined in a redundant angle definition table according to the eighth embodiment.

FIG. 62 is a schematic diagram illustrating a coordinate relationship of an end effector and a target portion (work object) according to the eighth embodiment.

FIG. 63 is a diagram illustrating an example of the redundant angle definition table according to the eighth embodiment.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

A robot according to an embodiment includes a robot arm and a strain sensor. The strain sensor has a piezoelectric body that has a natural frequency higher than that of a structural material forming the robot arm.

A robot system according to an embodiment includes a robot, a strain sensor, and a control unit. The robot has a robot arm. The strain sensor has a piezoelectric body that has a

5

natural frequency higher than that of a structural material forming the robot arm. The control unit determines a predetermined state of the robot, on the basis of an output value of the strain sensor.

First, a first embodiment will be described.

In a field of robots, it is preferable to avoid an excessive load from being generated with respect to a robot or an object existing around the robot. For this reason, generation or non-generation of a contact (external force) with respect to the robot needs to be detected.

For example, a technology for attaching a force detector to detect the external force to a base end of a robot arm and stopping an operation of the robot arm on the basis of the detection result of the force detector or operating the robot arm in a reduction direction of the external force when the excessive external force is applied is disclosed in JP-A No. 2006-21287.

In order to improve functionality of the robot, it is preferable to detect generation or non-generation of a contact with respect to the robot arm with high precision.

In the related art, a six-axis force sensor is used as the force detector, and because the magnitude of the actual external force applied to the robot arm is detected, responsiveness with respect to the contact of the robot arm is late. Further, a slight contact or a momentary contact may not be sufficiently detected.

According to one aspect of the embodiment, a robot that can improve functionality of the robot is provided.

According to this embodiment, the functionality of the robot can be improved.

Hereinafter, the first embodiment will be described with reference to the drawings. This embodiment is an example of the case where the robot disclosed in the present application is applied to detection of abnormality of robot arms.

FIG. 1 is a conceptual diagram illustrating the entire configuration of a robot system that includes the robot according to the first embodiment. FIG. 2 is a top view illustrating the configuration of the robot according to the first embodiment.

In FIGS. 1 and 2, a robot system 1001 according to this embodiment includes a robot 1100 that is provided on one side of a belt conveyor 1002 to convey plural products P and a robot controller 1150 that controls the robot 1100. The robot 1100 is a dual-arm robot and has a base 1101, a trunk portion 1102, two arms 1103L and 1103R (robot arms), and two sensor units 1120L and 1120R that function as a means for detecting dynamic strain of a structural material forming the robot arms.

The base 1101 is fixed to a mounting surface (floor) by an anchor bolt (not illustrated in the drawings). The trunk portion 1102 has a first joint portion in which an actuator Ac1001 driven to rotate around a rotation axis Ax1001 is provided. The trunk portion 1102 is disposed to rotate through the first joint portion with respect to the base 1101 and rotates along a direction approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac1001 provided in the first joint portion. The trunk portion 1102 supports the arms 1103L and 1103R that are configured as separate objects, at one side (right side in FIGS. 1 and 2) and the other side (left side in FIGS. 1 and 2), respectively.

The arm 1103L is a manipulator that is provided on one side of the trunk portion 1102. The arm 1103L has a shoulder portion 1104L, an upper arm A portion 1105L, an upper arm B portion 1106L, a lower arm portion 1107L, a wrist A portion 1108L, a wrist B portion 1109L, a flange 1110L, a hand 1111L, and second to eighth joint portions in which actuators Ac1002 to Ac1008 to drive rotation of the individual portions are provided, respectively.

6

The shoulder portion 1104L is connected to the trunk portion 1102 to rotate through the second joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1002 approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac1002 provided in the second joint portion. The upper arm A portion 1105L is connected to the shoulder portion 1104L to rotate through the third joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1003 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1002 by driving of the actuator Ac1003 provided in the third joint portion. The upper arm B portion 1106L is connected to a front end of the upper arm A portion 1105L to rotate through the fourth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1004 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1003 by driving of the actuator Ac1004 provided in the fourth joint portion. The lower arm portion 1107L is connected to the upper arm B portion 1106L to rotate through the fifth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1005 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1004 by driving of the actuator Ac1005 provided in the fifth joint portion. The wrist A portion 1108L is connected to a front end of the lower arm portion 1107L to rotate through the sixth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1006 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1005 by driving of the actuator Ac1006 provided in the sixth joint portion. The wrist B portion 1109L is connected to the wrist A portion 1108L to rotate through the seventh joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1007 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1006 by driving of the actuator Ac1007 provided in the seventh joint portion. The flange 1110L is connected to a front end of the wrist B portion 1109L to rotate through the eighth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1008 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1007 by driving of the actuator Ac1008 provided in the eighth joint portion. The hand 1111L is attached to a front end of the flange 1110L and rotates according to the rotation of the flange 1110L.

The arm 1103R is a manipulator that is provided on the other side of the trunk portion 1102. Similar to the arm 1103L, the arm 1103R has a shoulder portion 1104R, an upper arm A portion 1105R, an upper arm B portion 1106R, a lower arm portion 1107R, a wrist A portion 1108R, a wrist B portion 1109R, a flange 1110R, a hand 1111R, and ninth to fifteenth joint portions in which actuators Ac1009 to Ac1015 to drive rotation of the individual portions are provided, respectively.

The shoulder portion 1104R is connected to the trunk portion 1102 to rotate through the ninth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1009 approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac1009 provided in the ninth joint portion. The upper arm A portion 1105R is connected to the shoulder portion 1104R to rotate through the tenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1010 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1009 by driving of the actuator Ac1010 provided in the tenth joint portion. The upper arm B portion 1106R is connected to a front end of the upper arm A portion 1105R to rotate through the eleventh joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1011 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1010 by driving of the actuator Ac1011 provided in the eleventh joint portion. The lower arm portion 1107R is connected to the upper arm B portion 1106R to rotate through the twelfth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1012 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1011 by driving of the actuator Ac1012 provided in the twelfth joint portion. The wrist A portion 1108R is connected to a front end of the lower arm portion 1107R to rotate through the thirteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1013 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1012 by driving of the actuator Ac1013 provided in the thirteenth joint portion. The wrist B portion 1109R is connected to the wrist A portion 1108R to rotate through the fourteenth joint

portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1014 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1013 by driving of the actuator Ac1014 provided in the fourteenth joint portion. The flange 1110R is connected to a front end of the wrist B portion 1109R to rotate through the fifteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax1015 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax1014 by driving of the actuator Ac1015 provided in the fifteenth joint portion. The hand 1111R is attached to a front end of the flange 1110R and rotates according to the rotation of the flange 1110R.

In this example, each of the arms 1103L and 1103R has seven joint portions, that is, degrees of freedom of 7 (redundant degrees of freedom). However, the degrees of freedom of each of the arms 1103L and 1103R are not limited to “7”.

As structural materials that form the shoulder portions 1104L and 1104R, the upper arm A portions 1105L and 1105R, the upper arm B portions 1106L and 1106R, the lower arm portions 1107L and 1107R, the wrist A portions 1108L and 1108R, the wrist B portions 1109L and 1109R, the flanges 1110L and 1110R, and the hands 1111L and 1111R of the arms 1103L and 1103R, metallic materials such as iron or aluminum are used.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the trunk portion 1102 is formed to protrude forward in a horizontal direction from the first joint portion to the second and ninth joint portions, with respect to the base 1101, such that the rotation axis Ax1001 of the first joint portion and the rotation axes Ax1002 and Ax1009 of the second and ninth joint portions are offset by the length D1 in a direction approximately horizontal to the mounting surface. Thereby, a space of the lower side of the shoulder portions 1104L and 1104R can be used as a work space, and a reachable range of the arms 1103L and 1103R can be enlarged by rotating the rotation axis Ax1001.

A shape of the upper arm B portion 1106R is set such that the positions of the rotation axis Ax1001 of the eleventh joint portion and the rotation axis Ax1012 of the twelfth joint portion in plan view are offset by the length D2. A shape of the lower arm portion 1107R is set such that the positions of the rotation axis Ax1012 of the twelfth joint portion and the rotation axis Ax1013 of the thirteenth joint portion in plan view are offset by the length D3. When the rotation axis Ax1011 and the rotation axis Ax1013 take an approximately horizontal posture, the offset length of the rotation axis Ax1011 and the rotation axis Ax1013 becomes (D2+D3). Thereby, when the twelfth joint portion corresponding to a human “elbow” is bent, clearance of the upper arm A portion 1105R and the upper arm B portion 1106R corresponding to a human “upper arm” and the lower arm portion 1107R corresponding to a human “lower arm” can be greatly secured. Even when the hand 1111R comes close to the trunk portion 1102, a degree of freedom of the arm 1103R at the time of an operation increases.

Although not clearly illustrated in FIG. 2, similar to the arm 1103R, in the arm 1103L, a shape of the upper arm B portion 1106L is set such that the positions of the rotation axis Ax1004 of the fourth joint portion and the rotation axis Ax1005 of the fifth joint portion in upper view are offset by the length D2. A shape of the lower arm portion 1107L is set such that the positions of the rotation axis Ax1005 of the fifth joint portion and the rotation axis Ax1006 of the sixth joint portion in upper view are offset by the length D3. When the rotation axis Ax1004 and the rotation axis Ax1006 take an approximately horizontal posture, the offset length of the rotation axis Ax1004 and the rotation axis Ax1006 becomes (D2+D3).

As illustrated in FIG. 2, each of the sensor units 1120L and 1120R includes a sensor fixing jig 1121 that is provided on the

inner side of a casing constituting an outer wall of the robot 1100 (in this example, casing constituting an outer wall of the trunk portion 1102) and is formed in an annular shape and at least three (in this example, three) sensors 1122 (strain sensors) that have an approximately rectangular solid shape. The sensor fixing jig 1121 of the sensor unit 1120L is attached to a base of a stator of the actuator Ac1002 of the arm 1103L that is closest to the side of a base end, and the three sensors 1122 that are provided in the sensor fixing jig 1121 can detect the force applied the arm 1103L (in detail, amount of strain caused by a vibration due to the impact force applied to the arm 1103L, not the magnitude of the force). The sensor fixing jig 1121 of the sensor unit 1120R is attached to a base of a stator of the actuator Ac1009 of the arm 1103R that is closest to the side of a base end, and the three sensors 1122 that are provided in the sensor fixing jig 1121 can detect the force applied the arm 1103R (in detail, amount of strain caused by a vibration due to the impact force applied to the arm 1103R, not the magnitude of the force). The sensor units 1120L and 1120R will be described in detail below.

In this example, the sensor fixing jigs 1121 of the sensor units 1120L and 1120R are provided in the inner side of the casing of the trunk portion 1102. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto, and the sensor fixing jigs 1121 may be provided in the inner side of the casings of the arms 1103L and 1103R, respectively. In this example, the three sensors 1122 are provided in the sensor fixing jig 1121. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and four or more (for example, four or five) sensors may be provided in the sensor fixing jig 1121.

In the robot 1100 that has the above-described configuration, operations of individual driving portions that include the actuators Ac1001 to Ac1015 are controlled by the robot controller 1150, such that the arms 1103L and 1103R are operated toward the inner side than both sides of the product P on the belt conveyor 1002 and the product P is gripped by the hands 1111L and 1111R. Each of the actuators Ac1001 to Ac1015 is composed of a decelerator-integrated servo motor that has a hollow portion where a wiring line (not illustrated in the drawings) can be inserted, and the rotation positions of the actuators Ac1001 to Ac1015 are input as signals from encoders (not illustrated in the drawings) incorporated in the actuators Ac1001 to Ac1015 to the robot controller 1150 through the wiring line.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of the robot controller 1150 according to the first embodiment.

In FIG. 3, the robot controller 1150 is composed of a computer that includes an operator, a storage device, and an input device (not illustrated in the drawings) and is connected to the individual driving portions or the individual sensors 1122 of the robot 1100 through the wiring line to communicate with each other. The robot controller 1150 has an operation instructing unit 1151, a position instruction intercepting unit 1152, a smoothing processing unit 1153, a servo unit 1154, an abnormality detecting unit 1155, a grip torque compensating unit 1156, and a gravity torque compensating unit 1157.

The operation instructing unit 1151 calculates a position instruction (operation instruction) with respect to each of the actuators Ac1001 to Ac1015, on the basis of instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) with respect to each of the arms 1103L and 1103R instructed through the input device, and pools the position instruction to the smoothing processing unit 1153 through the position instruction intercepting unit 1152.

The smoothing processing unit **1153** sequentially outputs the pooled position instruction to the servo unit **1154**, for every predetermined operation cycle.

The servo unit **1154** has a joint angle feedback circuit Fp based on a detection value of the encoder of each of the actuators Ac**1001** to Ac**1015** and a joint angle feedback circuit Fv based on an angular speed detection value obtained from the detection value of the encoder of each of the actuators Ac**1001** to Ac**1015**, for each of the actuators Ac**1001** to Ac**1015**. The servo unit **1154** generates a torque instruction Tref with respect to each of the actuators Ac**1001** to Ac**1015** for every predetermined operation cycle, on the basis of the position instructions sequentially input by the smoothing processing unit **1153**, and outputs the torque instruction.

The abnormality detecting unit **1155** detects generation or non-generation based on aging of a rotation member such as the actuators Ac**1002** to Ac**1015** provided in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** and the decelerator, on the basis of an output value V (output signal) of each sensor **1122** of the sensor units **1120L** and **1120R**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the abnormality detecting unit **1155** may detect generation or non-generation of abnormality (including abnormality based on aging of the rotation member such as the actuators Ac**1002** to Ac**1015** or the decelerator or abnormality of the casings of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**) of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. The abnormality detecting unit **1155** will be described in detail below.

When the abnormality of the actuators Ac**1002** to Ac**1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** is detected by the abnormality detecting unit **1155**, the position instruction intercepting unit **1152** intercepts an output of the position instruction from the operation instructing unit **1151** to the smoothing processing unit **1153** and intercepts the position instruction that is transmitted to the servo unit **1154**. If the position instruction transmitted to the servo unit **1154** is intercepted, a value of the torque instruction Tref that is output by the feedback decreases and the arms **1103L** and **1103R** are quickly stopped.

The grip torque compensating unit **1156** adds the grip compensation torque to grip the product P by the arms **1103L** and **1103R** to the torque instruction Tref with respect to each of the actuators Ac**1001** to Ac**1015** generated by the servo unit **1154**.

The gravity torque compensating unit **1157** adds the gravity compensation torque corresponding to the self weight to the torque instruction Tref with respect to each of the actuators Ac**1001** to Ac**1015** generated by the servo unit **1154**.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of the abnormality detecting unit **1155** according to the first embodiment.

In FIG. 4, the abnormality detecting unit **1155** has a high-pass filter unit **1161**, a section setting unit **1162**, a normative waveform recording unit **1163**, an output waveform recording unit **1167**, a comparing/determining unit **1164**, a zero point adjusting unit **1165**, and a threshold value setting unit **1166**.

The high-pass filter unit **1161** extracts a high frequency vibration component of an output signal of each sensor **1122** to remove a frequency component (for example, frequency component due to disturbance) other than a frequency due to the abnormality of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, which is included in the output signal of each sensor **1122** of the sensor units **1120L** and **1120R**. The high-pass filter unit **1161** will be described in detail below.

The section setting unit **1162** sets a section where the normative waveform recording unit **1163** records a time history of the output value V of the sensor **1122** as a normative

waveform, on the basis of input information input by the input device (hereinafter, simply referred to as "recording section").

The normative waveform recording unit **1163** records the time history of the output value V of each sensor **1122** based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit **1161** while the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute a predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit **1162** in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** as a normative waveform (refer to FIG. 6B to be described below) for each sensor **1122**. In this case, the state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** means a state in which there is no structural or functional defect and failure in the casings (including the structure member, the cover member, and the wiring line) of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** and the actuators Ac**1002** to Ac**1015** provided in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** or the decelerator and the casings of the arms and the actuators or the decelerator are normally operated, and a contact or interference not to be intended is not generated in the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. For example, the state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** means a state immediately after it is checked that the casings of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** and the actuators Ac**1002** to Ac**1015** provided in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** or the decelerator are normally operated or a state at the time of initial activating in which there is no initial defect. The predetermined operation is an operation according to the position instruction that is calculated by the operation instructing unit **1151** on the basis of the instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) instructed through the input device.

The output waveform recording unit **1167** may record the time history of the output value V of each sensor **1122** based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit **1161** while the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the predetermined operation as an output waveform (refer to FIG. 7B to be described below) for each sensor **1122**. In this embodiment, the output waveform recording unit **1167** records the time history of the output value V of each sensor **1122** while the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the predetermined operation as the output waveform for each sensor **1122**, when the product P to be a grip object does not exist in a movable range at the time of activating (for example, immediately after starting conveyance of the product P or at the time of stopping the conveyance and performing checking). However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the output waveform recording unit **1167** records the time history of the output value V of each sensor **1122** while the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the predetermined operation at the time of activating as an output waveform for each sensor **1122**, when the product P to be a grip object exists in a movable range at the time of activating.

The threshold value setting unit **1166** sets a threshold value Dth that becomes a determination value of generation or non-generation of the abnormality in the comparing/determining unit **1164**, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

The comparing/determining unit **1164** compares the normative waveform recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **1163** for each sensor **1122** and the output waveform recorded in the output waveform recording unit **1167** for each sensor **1122**, for each sensor **1122**, and calculates the difference (in detail, absolute value of the difference) "D" of the normative waveform and the output waveform, for each sensor **1122**. The number of times (hereinafter, referred

11

to as number of times of excess N) where the difference “D” calculated for each sensor 1122 exceeds a threshold value Dth previously set by the threshold value setting unit 1166 for a constant time (in this example, time needed when the arms 1103L and 1103R execute the predetermined operation once) is counted for each sensor 1122. The constant time is not limited to the time needed when the arms 1103L and 1103R execute the predetermined operation once. For example, the constant time may be time that is set through the input device. By determining whether the number of times of excess N counted for each sensor 1122 exceeds the predetermined number of times of determination Nj, for each sensor 1122, the comparing/determining unit 1164 determines whether there is abnormality in the actuators Ac1002 to Ac1015 of the arms 1103L and 1103R. The comparing/determining unit 1164 will be described in detail below.

The zero point adjusting unit 1165 outputs a reset signal to each sensor 1122 and adjusts a zero point of each sensor 1122, whenever the arms 1103L and 1103R execute the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit 1162, to suppress the change in the ambient temperature due to heat generation of the actuators Ac1002 to Ac1015 of the arms 1103L and 1103R or an influence of the temperature drift of each sensor 1122 generated by self heat generation.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating the detailed configuration of the sensor units 1120L and 1120R, the high-pass filter unit 1161, and the comparing/determining unit 1164 according to the first embodiment. In FIG. 5, the normative waveform recording unit 1163 and the output waveform recording unit 1167 are not illustrated.

In FIG. 5, as described above, each of the sensor units 1120L and 1120R includes the sensor fixing jig 1121 that is provided on the inner side of the casing of the trunk portion 1102 and is formed in an annular shape and the three sensors 1122 that are provided in the sensor fixing jig 1121 and have an approximately rectangular solid shape. The sensor fixing jig 1121 of each of the sensor units 1120L and 1120R has an opening 1121A where the wiring line of the actuators Ac1002 to Ac1015 provided in the arms 1103L and 1103R can be inserted, at the approximately central portion. The three sensors 1122 of the sensor unit 1120L are disposed on an inner surface of the sensor fixing jig 1121, that is, a surface (the surface on the left side in FIG. 2 and the surface in front of a plane of paper in FIG. 5) not attached to the base of the stator of the actuator Ac1002, such that the three sensors 1122 are radially disposed at an equal interval on the same circumference. The three sensors 1122 of the sensor unit 1120R are disposed on the inner surface of the sensor fixing jig 1121, that is, a surface (the surface on the right side in FIG. 2 and the surface in front of a plane of paper in FIG. 5) not attached to the base of the stator of the actuator Ac1009, such that the three sensors 1122 are radially disposed at an equal interval on the same circumference.

In this embodiment, a force sensor that has a piezoelectric body made of a material having a natural frequency (rigidity) higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms 1103L and 1103R, in this example, a sensor where quartz is used as the piezoelectric body is used as each sensor 1122. This is because that the change force including a high frequency component can be detected when a natural frequency of the force sensor is high and the quartz has a natural frequency (or rigidity) higher than that of the metallic material that is the structural material forming each portion of the arms 1103L and 1103R. Therefore, a minute high frequency vibration (fast deformation and

12

dynamic strain) that is transmitted to the structural material of each portion of the arms 1103L and 1103R can be detected.

Each sensor 1122 is not limited to the sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body and may be a force sensor that has a piezoelectric body made of a material having a natural frequency higher than that of the structural material forming each portion of the arms 1103L and 1103R. In this case, one sensor 1122 detects strain of one direction that is generated in the sensor fixing jig 1121. Meanwhile, an abnormal vibration or impact based on abnormality of the rotation member such as the actuators Ac1002 to Ac1015 of the arms 1103L and 1103R or the decelerator is transmitted to the sensor fixing jig 1121 through the structural material of each portion of the arms 1103L and 1103R in plural directions. Therefore, by providing the three sensors 1122 in each sensor fixing jig 1121 as described above, strain of three directions that is generated in each sensor fixing jig 1121 can be detected. Each sensor 1122 of the sensor unit 1120L detects the amount of strain of a radial direction of the sensor fixing jig 1121 due to the force applied to the arm 1103L as a voltage and each sensor 1122 of the sensor unit 1120R detects the amount of strain of a radial direction of the sensor fixing jig 1121 due to the force applied to the arm 1103R as a voltage. The voltage that is obtained by each sensor 1122 is amplified by the amplifying unit 1123 and is input to each high-pass filter 1161A (to be described below) of the high-pass filter unit 1161.

The high-pass filter unit 1161 has plural high-pass filters 1161A (or band-pass filters using a high frequency band as a pass-band) that can extract a high frequency vibration component of the output signal of the sensor 1122, and the high frequency component of the output signal of each sensor 1122 that is amplified by the amplifying unit 1123 is extracted by each high-pass filter 1161A. In each high-pass filter 1161A, a cut-off frequency is determined such that a frequency component other than a frequency due to abnormality of the arms 1103L and 1103R (frequency component due to an event other than a contact such as an operation of the actuators Ac1002 to Ac1015) can be removed.

By determining whether the number of times of excess N counted for each sensor 1122 exceeds the number of times of determination Nj for each sensor 1122 as described above, the comparing/determining unit 1164 determines whether there is abnormality in the actuators Ac1002 to Ac1015 of the arms 1103L and 1103R. Specifically, when the number of times of excess N for all of the sensors 1122 is within the number of times of determination Nj, the comparing/determining unit 1164 determines that there is no abnormality in the actuators Ac1002 to Ac1015. When the number of times of excess N for one sensor 1122 among all of the sensors 1122 exceeds the number of times of determination Nj, the comparing/determining unit 1164 determines that there is abnormality in the actuators Ac1002 to Ac1015.

The comparing/determining unit 1164 executes the above determination while changing the number of times of determination Nj according to the operation speed of the arms 1103L and 1103R. That is, in the case where abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators Ac1002 to Ac1015 of the arms 1103L and 1103R or the decelerator and a cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is generated at the time of the operation of the arms 1103L and 1103R, when the operation speed of the arms 1103L and 1103R is fast, the number of times of generating the cyclic abnormal vibration increases, and when the operation speed is slow, the number of times of generating the cyclic abnormal vibration decreases. For this reason, when the number of times of determination Nj is set to a constant value, erroneous

detection of the abnormality is caused depending on the operation speed. Therefore, in this embodiment, the comparing/determining unit **1164** executes the above determination while changing the number of times of determination N_j according to the operation speed of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, and prevents the erroneous detection.

FIGS. **6A** and **6B** are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **1103L** and **1103R** according to the first embodiment in a state in which there is no abnormality and an output value V of the sensor **1122** during the predetermined operation.

FIG. **6A** schematically illustrates an example of the predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **1103L** and **1103R** in a state in which there is no abnormality. In the example illustrated in FIG. **6A**, in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** at the time of instructing and in an environment in which the product P that is an object to be gripped does not exist and there is no obstacle around the robot **1100** (within the movable range of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**), that is, in a state in which an object does not contact the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, a predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **1150**, that is, an operation from the instructed operation start position (position illustrated at the left side of FIG. **6A**) to the instructed operation completion position (position illustrated at the right side of FIG. **6A**) is executed. The operation completion position is set to the position where the hands **1111L** and **1111R** can grip the minimum product P of the products P conveyed by the belt conveyor **1002**.

FIG. **6B** illustrates an example of the normative waveform that is recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **1163** to correspond to the operation illustrated in FIG. **6A**, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor **1122**. In the example illustrated in FIG. **6B**, in the normative waveform recording unit **1163**, the time history of the output value V of the sensor **1122** while the operation corresponding to the recording section described above and illustrated in FIG. **6A** is executed once in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** is recorded as the normative waveform. The normative waveform can always be recorded, when there is no abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. In this embodiment, an example of the case where the normative waveform is recorded at the time of instructing the predetermined operation with respect to the robot **1100** will be described.

FIGS. **7A** and **7B** are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **1103L** and **1103R** according to the first embodiment at the time of activating and an output value V of the sensor **1122** during the predetermined operation.

FIG. **7A** schematically illustrates an example of the predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **1103L** and **1103R** at the time of activating. In the example illustrated in FIG. **7A**, when the product P to be a grip object does not exist in a movable range at the time of activating (for example, immediately after starting conveyance of the product P or at the time of stopping the conveyance and performing checking), in a state in which abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** or the decelerator, the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute a predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **1150**, that is, an operation from the instructed operation start position (position illustrated at the left side of FIG. **7A**) to the instructed operation completion position (position illustrated

at the right side of FIG. **7A**). In the example that is illustrated in FIG. **7A**, the case where the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the predetermined operation when the product P that is the grip object does not exist in the movable range as described above is illustrated. Therefore, similar to the case of FIG. **6A**, the operation to the operation completion position is executed without gripping the product P by the hands **1111L** and **1111R**. Although not illustrated in the drawings, when the product P to be the grip object exists, the arms **1103L** and **1103R** is operated from the operation start position to the inner side more than both sides of the product P on the belt conveyor **1002**. If the product P contacts the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, the arms **1103L** and **1103R** stop the operation at the corresponding position such that the product P is gripped by the hands **1111L** and **1111R**.

FIG. **7B** illustrates an example of the normative waveform that is recorded in the output waveform recording unit **1167** to correspond to the operation illustrated in FIG. **7A**, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor **1122**. In the example illustrated in FIG. **7B**, in the output waveform recording unit **1167**, the time history of the output value V of the sensor **1122** while the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the operation illustrated in FIG. **7A** once in a state in which abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** or the decelerator is recorded as an output waveform. In this example, when abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** or the decelerator, an abnormal place cyclically appears in a rotation phase. For this reason, when the arms **1103L** and **1103R** are operated, a abnormal vibration or impact is easily generated. In general, when the cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is generated in the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, the impact force due to the abnormal vibration or impact is transmitted to the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, and the output value V of the sensor **1122** increases as compared with the case where the abnormal vibration or impact is not generated. Therefore, when abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** or the decelerator, a section where the output value V of the sensor **1122** increases cyclically exists in the output waveform. In the output waveform that is illustrated in FIG. **7B**, sections of four places where the output value V of the sensor **1122** increases exist.

FIGS. **8A** and **8B** are diagrams illustrating an example of a method of detecting whether there is abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** according to the first embodiment. FIG. **8A** illustrates the normative waveform corresponding to FIG. **6B** and the output waveform corresponding to FIG. **7B**, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor **1122**. FIG. **8B** illustrates a waveform of a time-series change of the difference “ D ”, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates the difference “ D ”.

In FIGS. **8A** and **8B**, as described above, when there is abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, a section where the output value V of the sensor **1122** increases cyclically exists in the output waveform. Therefore, by comparing the two waveforms of the normative waveform at the time of instructing recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **1163** and the output waveform at the time of activating recorded in the output waveform recording unit **1167** in a state where there is no abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, the cyclic change of the output waveform with respect to the normative waveform can be detected. Therefore, it can be detected whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. That is, by deter-

mining whether the number of times of excess N where the difference “D” of the normative waveform and the output waveform exceeding the threshold value Dth when the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the predetermined operation once exceeds the number of times of determination Nj according to the operation speed of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, it can be determined whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015**. Specifically, when the number of times of excess N is within the number of times of determination Nj, it can be determined that there is no abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015**. When the number of times of excess N exceeds the number of times of determination Nj, it can be determined that there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015**. In the examples that are illustrated in FIGS. **8A** and **8B**, the number of times of excess N is “4” as illustrated in FIG. **8B**. Therefore, when the number of times of determination Nj is “3” or less, it is determined that there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015**.

FIG. **9** is a flowchart illustrating a control sequence that is executed by the robot controller **1150** according to the first embodiment.

In FIG. **9**, a process that is illustrated in a flow is started when a predetermined operation start manipulation is executed through the input device. First, in step **S1010**, the robot controller **1150** determines whether an operation mode of the robot **1100** is an “instruction mode” to perform instructing or an “activation mode” to perform activating, on the basis of input information input through the input device. When the operation mode of the robot **1100** is the “instruction mode”, the determination result of step **S1010** is satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S1020**.

In step **S1020**, the robot controller **1150** sets the recording section in the section setting unit **1162**, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

Then, in step **S1030**, the robot controller **1150** outputs the reset signal to each sensor **1122** and adjusts a zero point of each sensor **1122**, in the zero point adjusting unit **1165**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S1040** and the robot controller **1150** outputs a position instruction with respect to each of the actuators **Ac1001** to **Ac1015** calculated in the operation instructing unit **1151** on the basis of the instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) with respect to each of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** instructed through the input device, to each of the actuators **Ac1001** to **Ac1015**, and starts the predetermined operation (refer to FIG. **6A**) according to the position instruction in the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** and an object does not contact the arms **1103L** and **1103R**.

Then, in step **S1050**, the robot controller **1150** starts recording of the normative waveform for each sensor **1122**, in the normative waveform recording unit **1163**. Therefore, while the arms **1103L** and **1103R** executes the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set in step **S1020** and started in step **S1040** in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **1103L** and **1103R** and an object does not contact the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, the normative waveform recording unit **1163** records the time history of the output value V of each sensor **1122** based on the high frequency vibration component amplified by the amplifying unit **1123** and extracted by each high-pass filter **1161A** as the normative waveform for each sensor **1122**.

If the arms **1103L** and **1103R** are operated until the operation completion position, the process proceeds to step **S1060** and the robot controller **1150** completes the operation in the arms **1103L** and **1103R**.

Then, in step **S1070**, the robot controller **1150** completes recording of the normative waveform for each sensor **1122**, in the normative waveform recording unit **1163**. The robot controller **1150** ends the process that is illustrated in the flow. The process that is illustrated in the flow is executed by the robot controller **1150**, whenever the predetermined operation start manipulation is executed through the input device.

Meanwhile, in step **S1010**, when the operation mode of the robot **1100** is the “activation mode”, the determination result of step **S1010** is not satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S1080**.

In step **S1080**, the robot controller **1150** sets the threshold value Dth in the threshold value setting unit **1166**, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S1090** and the robot controller **1150** adjusts a zero point of each sensor **1122** in the zero point setting unit **1165**, similar to step **S1030**.

Then, in step **S1100**, the robot controller **1150** outputs a position instruction with respect to each of the actuators **Ac1001** to **Ac1015** calculated in the operation instructing unit **1151** on the basis of the instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) with respect to each of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** instructed through the input device, to each of the actuators **Ac1001** to **Ac1015**, and starts the predetermined operation (refer to FIG. **7A**) according to the position instruction in the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, when the product P to be the grip object does not exist within the movable range of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S1110** and the robot controller **1150** starts recording of the output waveform for each sensor **1122**, in the output waveform recording unit **1167**. Therefore, when the product P to be the grip object does not exist within the movable range of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, while the predetermined operation started in step **S1040** is executed by the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, the output waveform recording unit **1167** records the time history of the output value V of each sensor **1122** based on the high frequency vibration component amplified by the amplifying unit **1123** and extracted by each high-pass filter **1161A** as the output waveform for each sensor **1122**.

Then, if the arms **1103L** and **1103R** are operated until the operation completion position, the process proceeds to step **S1120** and the robot controller **1150** completes the operations in the arms **1103L** and **1103R**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S1130** and the robot controller **1150** completes recording of the output waveform for each sensor **1122**, in the output waveform recording unit **1167**.

Then, in step **S1140**, the robot controller **1150** compares the normative waveform recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **1163** for each sensor **1122** and the output waveform recorded in the output waveform recording unit **1167** for each sensor **1122**, for each sensor **1122** in the comparing/determining unit **1164**, and calculates the difference “D” for each sensor **1122**. The robot controller **1150** counts the number of times of excess N where the difference “D” calculated for each sensor **1122** exceeds the threshold value Dth set in step **S1080** when the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the predetermined operation started in step **S1100** and completed in step **S1120** once, for each sensor **1122**. By determining whether the number of times of excess N counted for each sensor **1122** exceeds the number of times of determination Nj set according to the operation speed of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** for each sensor **1122**, it is determined whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. Specifically, when the

number of times of excess N for all of the sensors **1122** is within the number of times of determination N_j, it is determined that there is no abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. When the number of times of excess N for one sensor **1122** among all of the sensors **1122** exceeds the number of times of determination N_j, it is determined that there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S1150** and the robot controller **1150** determines whether it is determined in step **S1140** that there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015**. When it is determined that there is no abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015**, the determination result of step **S1150** is not satisfied and the process that is illustrated in the flow ends. Meanwhile, when it is determined that there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015**, the determination result of step **S1150** is satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S1160**.

In step **S1160**, the robot controller **1150** intercepts the output of the position instruction from the operation instructing unit **1151** to the smoothing processing unit **1153** in the position instruction intercepting unit **1152**, outputs the torque instruction T_{ref} generated by the servo unit **1154** to each of the actuators **Ac1001** to **Ac1015**, stops the operation instructed to the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, and notifies an external device of the abnormality of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** in a notifying unit (not illustrated in the drawings).

As described above, the robot **1100** according to this embodiment has the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, and in each of the sensor fixing jigs **1121** that are provided in the bases of the actuators **Ac1002** and **Ac1009** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** closest to the side of the base end, the sensors **1122** (in the above example, three sensors) that have a piezoelectric body having a natural frequency higher than that of the structure material (metallic material such as iron or aluminum in the above example) forming each portion of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** are provided. By configuring the sensor **1122** as the sensor the piezoelectric body having a natural frequency higher than that of the structure material forming each portion of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, the following effect can be obtained. That is, when abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** or the decelerator, the cyclic abnormal vibration or impact may be generated during the operation of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. Therefore, by providing the sensors **1122** having the piezoelectric body having a natural frequency higher than that of the structure material forming each portion of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, the high frequency abnormal vibration or the impact that is generated in the structure material of each portion of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** due to the abnormality can be detected, and it can be detected whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. As a result, functionality of the robot **1100** can be improved.

Since the sensors **1122** are provided in the bases of the actuators **Ac1002** and **Ac1009** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** closest to the side of the base end, the abnormal vibration based on the rotation member such as all of the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** at the side of the front end or the decelerator can be detected. That is, abnormality with respect to the entire arms **1103L** and **1103R** can be detected.

In this embodiment, the sensor fixing jig **1121** is provided on the inner side of the casing of the trunk portion **1102**. Thereby, since each sensor **1122** can be provided in the casing, each sensor **1122** can be prevented from being destroyed due to the contact or collision of the object from the outside of

the casing. Further, the sensor **1122** can be protected from a droplet or dust from the outside of the casing.

In this embodiment, particularly, the three sensors **1122** are provided in the sensor fixing jig **1121**. The three sensors **1122** are radially disposed at an equal interval on the same circumference. By providing the three sensors **1122**, the strain of the three directions that is generated in the sensor fixing jig **1121** can be detected and the abnormal vibration or the impact can be detected with high precision. By radially disposing the three sensors **1122** at an equal interval on the same circumference, detection sensitivity of the sensors **1122** can be approximately equalized in a circumferential direction without deviating the detection sensitivity in one direction. Therefore, the abnormal vibration or the impact that is transmitted to the sensor fixing jig **1121** from the plural directions through the structural material of each portion of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** can be detected with high precision.

In this embodiment, in particular, the sensor fixing jig **1121** is formed in an annular shape with the opening **1121A** at the approximately central portion. By forming the sensor fixing jig **1121** positioned at the side of the base end of each of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** in the annular shape with the opening **1121A** at the approximately central portion, the wiring line of the actuators **Ac1002** to **Ac1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** can be inserted into the opening **1121A** of the sensor fixing jig **1121** and can be drawn (around the side of the trunk portion **1102**). Thereby, since the wiring line can be drawn without being exposed to the outside of the casing, the wiring line can be protected and an exterior appearance of the robot **1100** can be improved.

In this embodiment, particularly, each sensor **1122** is the sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body. Thereby, the high frequency abnormal vibration or the impact that is generated in the structural material of each portion of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** due to the abnormality based on aging of the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac1002** and **Ac1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** or the decelerator can be securely detected, and it can be detected with high precision whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac1002** and **Ac1015** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**.

The first embodiment has been described. However, the embodiment may be implemented by various different embodiments other than the first embodiment. Therefore, the various different embodiments are hereinafter described as modifications.

(1) Case Where the Robot is Applied to Detection of a Contact of an Object

In the above embodiment, the robot disclosed in the present application is applied to the detection of the abnormality of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the robot disclosed in the present application may be applied to detection of a contact of the object with respect to the arms **1103L** and **1103R**.

In this modification, a contact detecting unit (not illustrated in the drawings) of the robot controller **1150** detects whether the object contacts the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, on the basis of the output value V (output signal) of each sensor **1122** of the sensor units **1120L** and **1120R**. In this specification, the object is defined as a meaning including the product P gripped by the robot **1100**, the robot **1100**, a work apparatus such as the belt conveyor **1002**, a part of a building such as a wall, and an organism such as a living body.

As described above, each sensor **1122** of the sensor units **1120L** and **1120R** detects the force that is applied to the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. As the force that is applied to the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, the internal force that is generated by the operation of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** and the external force

that is applied to the arms **1103L** and **1103R** from the outside are considered. The external force is not applied to the arms **1103L** and **1103R** when the arms **1103L** and **1103R** are operated in a state in which the object illustrated in FIG. 6A does not contact the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. Therefore, each sensor **1122** detects only the vibration due to the internal force. Meanwhile, when the object contacts the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, the internal force and the external force are applied to the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. Therefore, each sensor **1122** detects the vibrations due to the internal force and the external force. For this reason, when the object contacts the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, the output value *V* of the sensor **1122** increases by the amount corresponding to the external force. Therefore, in this modification, the contact detecting unit compares the output value *V* of the sensor **1122** when the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the predetermined operation at the time of activating with the normative waveform previously recorded as the output value *V* of the sensor **1122** when the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the predetermined operation in a state in which the object does not contact the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, and determines whether the object contacts the arms **1103L** and **1103R**.

FIG. 10 schematically illustrates an example of the predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **1103L** and **1103R** at the time of activating. In the example that is illustrated in FIG. 10, at the time of activating, under an environment in which an obstacle *B* exists around the robot **1100** (within the movable range of the arms **1103L** and **1103R**), the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **1150**, that is, the operation from the instructed operation start position (position illustrated at the left side of FIG. 10) to the instructed operation completion position. At this time, the contact detecting unit determines whether the object contacts the arms **1103L** and **1103R**, using the above method. The arms **1103L** and **1103R** are operated from the operation start position to the inner side more than both sides of the product *P* on the belt conveyor **1002** (not illustrated in FIG. 10). When the contact detecting unit detects the contact of the object (obstacle *B* in this example) with respect to the arms **1103L** and **1103R** while the arms **1103L** and **1103R** execute the operation until the operation completion position, the robot controller **1150** stops the operation of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** at the corresponding position (position illustrated at the right side of FIG. 10).

In this example, the case where the control operation is performed such that the contact of the obstacle *B* with respect to the arms **1103L** and **1103R** is detected and the operation is stopped when the contact is detected is described. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the control operation may be performed such that the contact of the product *P* with respect to the arms **1103L** and **1103R** is detected, the operation is stopped when the contact is detected, and the product *P* is gripped by the hands **1111L** and **1111R**.

Even in this modification, the same effect as that of the above embodiment can be obtained. Since the external force applied to the arms **1103L** and **1103R** can be detected by the sensor **1122**, it can be detected whether the object contacts the arms **1103L** and **1103R**. As described above, since the sensors **1122** are provided in the bases of the actuators **Ac1002** and **Ac1009** of the arms **1103L** and **1103R** closest to the side of the base end, a contact at the side of the front end can be detected. That is, a contact with respect to the entire arms **1103L** and **1103R** can be detected. Therefore, an excessive load can be avoided from being generated with respect to the robot **1100** or the object existing around the robot **1100**.

(2) Case Where the Robot is Applied to a Single-Arm Robot

In the above embodiment, the robot disclosed in the present application is applied to the robot **1100** to be the dual-arm robot that has the two arms **1103L** and **1103R**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the robot disclosed in the present application may be applied to a single-arm robot that has one robot arm. Even in this case, the same effect as that of the above embodiment or the modification of (1) can be obtained.

In addition to the configuration described above, the configuration where the methods according to the embodiment and the modifications are appropriately combined may be used.

Although not specifically described, this embodiment can be variously changed in a range that does not depart from the spirit and scope of the embodiment.

Next, a second embodiment will be described.

In a field of robots, it is preferable to avoid an excessive load from being generated with respect to a robot or an object existing around the robot. For this reason, various technologies for detecting generation or non-generation of a contact (external force) with respect to the robot are studied.

For example, a technology for attaching a force detector to detect the external force to a base end of a robot arm and stopping an operation of the robot arm on the basis of the detection result of the force detector or operating the robot arm in a reduction direction of the external force when the excessive external force is applied is disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (JP-A) No. 2006-21287.

A sensory inspection to evaluate a quality by human five senses and bodily sensation is used in various fields. In a manufacturing/assembly process of various mechanical products or electronic apparatuses, when it is inspected whether the mechanical products or the electronic apparatuses are in a normal state or an abnormal state (it is inspected whether there is abnormality), a sensory inspection based on a tactile sense is generally used.

However, since a human sensory organ is used as a measuring instrument in the sensory inspection, the inspection result is affected by a skill or a physical condition of an inspector. Therefore, it is preferable to develop a robot that can inspect inspected object such as the mechanical product or the electronic apparatus with high precision without depending on the sensor inspection.

When the inspected object is inspected by the robot, it is needed to detect the change of the minute force or the vibration that is generated in the front end of the robot arm. However, in the configuration according to the related art in which the force detector is provided in the robot, an inspection with high precision is not possible.

According to one aspect of an embodiment, a robot that can detect with high precision whether the robot and the inspected object are in a normal state or an abnormal state is provided.

According to the robot in this embodiment, it can be detected with high precision whether the robot and the inspected object are in a normal state or an abnormal state.

Hereinafter, this embodiment will be described with reference to the drawings. This embodiment is an example of the case where the robot disclosed in the present application is applied to detection of abnormality of the inspected object to be the mechanical product.

FIG. 11 is a conceptual diagram illustrating the entire configuration of a robot system that includes the robot according to the second embodiment. FIG. 12 is a top view illustrating the configuration of the robot according to the second embodiment.

21

In FIGS. 11 and 12, a robot system 2001 according to this embodiment is a system that detects whether the inspected object to be the mechanical product is normal (described below) or abnormal (described below). The robot system 2001 includes a robot 2100 and a robot controller 2150 that controls the robot 2100. The robot 2100 is a dual-arm robot and has a base 2101, a trunk portion 2102, two arms 2103L and 2103R (robot arms), and a sensor 2130 (first strain sensor), and an A/D converter 2131.

The base 2101 is fixed to a mounting surface (floor) by an anchor bolt (not illustrated in the drawings). The trunk portion 2102 has a joint portion in which an actuator Ac2001 driven to rotate around a rotation axis Ax2001 is provided. The trunk portion 2102 is disposed to rotate with respect to the base 2101 through the first joint portion and rotates in a direction approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac2001 provided in the first joint portion. The trunk portion 2102 supports the arms 2103L and 2103R that are configured as separate objects, at one side (right side in FIGS. 11 and 12) and the other side (left side in FIGS. 11 and 12), respectively.

The arm 2103L is a manipulator that is provided on one side of the trunk portion 2102. The arm 2103L has a shoulder portion 2104L, an upper arm A portion 2105L, an upper arm B portion 2106L, a lower arm portion 2107L, a wrist A portion 2108L, a wrist B portion 2109L, a flange 2110L, a hand 2111L, and second to eighth joint portions in which actuators Ac2002 to Ac2008 configured to rotate the individual portions are provided, respectively.

The shoulder portion 2104L is connected to the trunk portion 2102 to rotate through the second joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2002 approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac2002 provided in the second joint portion. The upper arm A portion 2105L is connected to the shoulder portion 2104L to rotate through the third joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2003 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2002 by driving of the actuator Ac2003 provided in the third joint portion. The upper arm B portion 2106L is connected to a front end of the upper arm A portion 2105L shoulder portion 2104L to rotate through the fourth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2004 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2003 by driving of the actuator Ac2004 provided in the fourth joint portion. The lower arm portion 2107L is connected to the upper arm B portion 2106L to rotate through the fifth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2005 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2004 by driving of the actuator Ac2005 provided in the fifth joint portion. The wrist A portion 2108L is connected to a front end of the lower arm portion 2107L to rotate through the sixth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2006 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2005 by driving of the actuator Ac2006 provided in the sixth joint portion. The wrist B portion 2109L is connected to the wrist A portion 2108L to rotate through the seventh joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2007 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2006 by driving of the actuator Ac2007 provided in the seventh joint portion. The flange 2110L is connected to a front end of the wrist B portion 2109L to rotate through the eighth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2008 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2007 by driving of the actuator Ac2008 provided in the eighth joint portion. The hand 2111L is attached to a front end of the flange 2110L and rotates according to the rotation of the flange 2110L.

The arm 2103R is a manipulator that is provided on the other side of the trunk portion 2102. Similar to the arm 2103L, the arm 2103R has a shoulder portion 2104R, an upper arm A

22

portion 2105R, an upper arm B portion 2106R, a lower arm portion 2107R, a wrist A portion 2108R, a wrist B portion 2109R, a flange 2110R, a hand 2111R, and ninth to fifteenth joint portions in which actuators Ac2009 to Ac2015 to drive rotation of the individual portions are provided, respectively.

The shoulder portion 2104R is connected to the trunk portion 2102 to rotate through the ninth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2009 approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac2009 provided in the ninth joint portion. The upper arm A portion 2105R is connected to the shoulder portion 2104R to rotate through the tenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2010 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2009 by driving of the actuator Ac2010 provided in the tenth joint portion. The upper arm B portion 2106R is connected to a front end of the upper arm A portion 2105R shoulder portion 2104L to rotate through the eleventh joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2011 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2010 by driving of the actuator Ac2011 provided in the eleventh joint portion. The lower arm portion 2107R is connected to the upper arm B portion 2106R to rotate through the twelfth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2012 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2011 by driving of the actuator Ac2012 provided in the twelfth joint portion. The wrist A portion 2108R is connected to a front end of the lower arm portion 2107R to rotate through the thirteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2013 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2012 by driving of the actuator Ac2013 provided in the thirteenth joint portion. The wrist B portion 2109R is connected to the wrist A portion 2108R to rotate through the fourteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2014 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2013 by driving of the actuator Ac2014 provided in the fourteenth joint portion. The flange 2110R is connected to a front end of the wrist B portion 2109R to rotate through the fifteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax2015 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax2014 by driving of the actuator Ac2015 provided in the fifteenth joint portion. The hand 2111R is attached to a front end of the flange 2110R and rotates according to the rotation of the flange 2110R.

In this example, each of the arms 2103L and 2103R has seven joint portions, that is, degrees of freedom of 7 (redundant degree of freedom). However, the degrees of freedom of each of the arms 2103L and 2103R are not limited to "7".

As structural materials that form the shoulder portions 2104L and 2104R, the upper arm A portion 2105L and 2105R, the upper arm B portions 2106L and 2106R, the lower arm portions 2107L and 2107R, the wrist A portions 2108L and 2108R, the wrist B portions 2109L and 2109R, the flanges 2110L and 2110R, and the hands 2111L and 2111R of the arms 2103L and 2103R, metallic materials such as iron or aluminum are used. The arms 2103L and 2103R are configured to be thin and light like the front end side (side of the hands 2111L and 2111R), in order to suppress an increase in the operation torque of the actuators positioned at the side of the base end (side of the shoulder portions 2104L and 2104R) and secure a smoothing operation. For this reason, in the vicinity of the front end of each of the arms 2103L and 2103R, an extra space in the casing decreases.

As illustrated in FIG. 12, the trunk portion 2102 is formed to protrude forward in a horizontal direction from the first joint portion to the second and ninth joint portions, with respect to the base 2101, such that the rotation axis Ax2001 of the first joint portion and the rotation axis Ax2002 and Ax2009 of the second and ninth joint portions are offset by the length D1 in a direction approximately horizontal to the mounting surface. Thereby, a space of the lower side of the

shoulder portions **2104L** and **2104R** can be used as a work space, and a reachable range of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** can be enlarged by rotating the rotation axis **Ax2001**.

A shape of the upper arm B portion **2106R** is set such that the positions of the rotation axis **Ax2001** of the eleventh joint portion and the rotation axis **Ax2012** of the twelfth joint portion in plan view are offset by the length **D2**. A shape of the lower arm portion **2107R** is set such that the positions of the rotation axis **Ax2012** of the twelfth joint portion and the rotation axis **Ax2013** of the thirteenth joint portion in plan view are offset by the length **D3**. When the rotation axis **Ax2011** and the rotation axis **Ax2013** takes an approximately horizontal posture, the offset length of the rotation axis **Ax2011** and the rotation axis **Ax2013** becomes (**D2+D3**). Thereby, when the twelfth joint portion corresponding to a human "elbow" is bent, clearance of the upper arm A portion **2105R** and the upper arm B portion **2106R** corresponding to a human "upper arm" and the lower arm portion **2107R** corresponding to a human "lower arm" can be greatly secured. Even when the hand **2111R** comes close to the trunk portion **2102**, a freedom degree of the arm **2103R** at the time of an operation increases.

Although not clearly illustrated in FIG. **12**, similar to the arm **2103R**, in the arm **2103L**, a shape of the upper arm B portion **2106L** is set such that the positions of the rotation axis **Ax2004** of the fourth joint portion and the rotation axis **Ax2005** of the fifth joint portion in upper view are offset by the length **D2**. A shape of the lower arm portion **2107L** is set such that the positions of the rotation axis **Ax2005** of the fifth joint portion and the rotation axis **Ax2006** of the sixth joint portion in upper view are offset by the length **D3**. When the rotation axis **Ax2004** and the rotation axis **Ax2006** takes an approximately horizontal posture, the offset length of the rotation axis **Ax2004** and the rotation axis **Ax2006** becomes (**D2+D3**).

One sensor **2130** is provided in the vicinity of the front end of the casing of each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, in this example, on an external surface of the casing of each of the wrist B portions **2109L** and **2109R**. In this embodiment, as each sensor **2130**, a force sensor that has a piezoelectric body made of a material having a natural frequency (or rigidity) higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, in this example, a sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body is used. This is because that the change force including a higher frequency component can be detected as the force sensor has a higher natural frequency and the quartz has a natural frequency (or rigidity) higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. Therefore, a minute high frequency vibration (fast deformation and dynamic strain) that is transmitted to the front ends (hands **2111L** and **2111R**) of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** can be detected. The sensor **2130** that is provided on the external surface of the casing of the wrist B portion **2109L** detects the force (in detail, amount of strain caused by a vibration due to the impact force applied to the front end side more than the wrist B portion **2109L**, not the magnitude of the force) applied to the front end side (hand **2111L**) more than the wrist B portion **2109L** of the arm **2103L** as a voltage. The sensor **2130** that is provided on the external surface of the casing of the wrist B portion **2109R** detects the force (in detail, amount of strain caused by a vibration due to the impact force applied to the front end side more than the wrist B portion **2109L**, not the magnitude of the force) applied to the front end side (hand **2111R**) more than the wrist B portion **2109R** of the arm **2103R** as a voltage. The voltage that is obtained by each

sensor **2130** is input to the high-pass filter unit **2161** (refer to FIG. **15** to be described below) of the robot controller **2150** through an amplifying unit **2132** (refer to FIG. **15** to be described below) and the A/D converter **2131**.

In this example, one sensor **2130** is provided on the external surface of the casing of each of the wrist B portions **2109L** and **2109R**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the sensor **2130** may be provided at the different position (for example, on the external surface of the casing of each of the hands **2111L** and **2111R** or in the casing of each of the wrist B portions **2109L** and **2109R**) in the vicinity of the front end of the casing of each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. In this example, the sensor **2130** is provided for each of the arms **2103R** and **2103L**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and two or more sensors may be provided for each of the arms **2130R** and **2130L** and one or more sensors may be provided for either the arm **2130R** or the arm **2130L**. In this example, as each sensor **2130**, the sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body is used. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and a force sensor that has a piezoelectric body made of a material having a natural frequency higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** may be used as each sensor **2130**.

As illustrated in FIG. **12**, one A/D converter **2131** is provided in the vicinity of each sensor **2130**, in this example, in the casing of each of the wrist B portions **2109L** and **2109R**. The A/D converter **2131** that is provided in the casing of the wrist B portion **2109L** is connected to the sensor **2130** provided on the external surface of the casing of the wrist B portion **2109L** through a cable (not illustrated in the drawings) and is connected to the side of the trunk portion **2102** through a cable for a digital signal (not illustrated in the drawings) that is provided in the casing of the arm **2130L** and has superior flexibility. The A/D converter **2131** converts an output signal (analog signal) of the sensor **2130** input through the cable into a digital signal and is transmitted to the side of the trunk portion **2102** through the cable for the digital signal. The A/D converter **2131** that is provided in the casing of the wrist B portion **2109R** is connected to the sensor **2130** provided on the external surface of the casing of the wrist B portion **2109R** through a cable (not illustrated in the drawings) and is connected to the side of the trunk portion **2102** through a cable for a digital signal (not illustrated in the drawings) that is provided in the casing of the arm **2103R** and has superior flexibility. The A/D converter **2131** converts an output signal (analog signal) of the sensor **2130** input through the cable into a digital signal and is transmitted to the side of the trunk portion **2102** through the cable for the digital signal. The output signal of each sensor **2130** that is transmitted to the side of the trunk portion **2102** is input to the robot controller **2150** through the cable.

In the robot **2100** that has the above-described configuration, operations of individual driving portions that include the actuators **Ac2001** to **Ac2015** are controlled by the robot controller **2150**. Each of the actuators **Ac2001** to **Ac2005** is composed of a decelerator-integrated servo motor that has a hollow portion where a cable (not illustrated in the drawings) can be inserted, and the rotation positions of the actuators **Ac2001** to **Ac2005** are converted into signals from encoders (not illustrated in the drawings) incorporated in the actuators **Ac2001** to **Ac2015** and the signals are input to the robot controller **2150** through the cable.

In this case, in a manufacturing/assembling process of a mechanical product or an electronic apparatus, a sensory inspection to evaluate a quality by human five senses (in particular, tactile sense) and bodily sensation is used when it

is inspected whether the mechanical products or the electronic apparatuses are in a normal state or an abnormal state (for example, it is inspected whether there is abnormality). In particular, in a mechanical product that includes components where plural members such as gears or couplings are engaged and the torque is transmitted, the sensory inspection is used when rattling (backlash) is detected.

FIG. 13 is a diagram illustrating an inspected object according to the second embodiment.

In FIG. 13, an inspected object 2140 according to this embodiment is a mechanical product that includes components engaged with each other.

In this case, in the inspected object 2140, when the inspected object 2140 is abnormal like when processing precision of the components is low or when assembling precision of the components is low, the minute change, deformation, and vibration may be generated in the inspected object 2140. For this reason, in a manufacturing/assembling process of the inspected object 2140, it is determined whether the inspected object 2140 is in a normal state or an abnormal state. However, when it is determined by the sensory inspection whether the inspected object 2140 is in a normal state or an abnormal state, because a human sensory organ is used as a measuring instrument in the sensory inspection, the inspection result is affected by a skill or a physical condition of an inspector. Therefore, it is preferable to develop a robot that can inspect with high precision whether the inspected object 2140 is in a normal state or an abnormal state without depending on the sensor inspection.

The robot 2100 according to this embodiment is a robot that is made in view of the above requirement, and can inspect whether the inspected object 2140 is in a normal state or an abnormal state without depending on the sensor inspection. In this specification, a state in which the inspected object 2140 is normal is defined as a normal state and a state in which the inspected object 2140 is abnormal is defined as an abnormal state. That is, the robot 2100 according to this embodiment can inspect whether the inspected object 2140 is in a normal state or an abnormal state without depending on the sensor inspection. Hereinafter, an example of a predetermined operation that is related to an inspection of abnormality of the inspected object 2140 executed by the arms 2103L and 2103R of the robot 2100 in a state in which manufacturing precision of the inspected object 2140 is set as an inspection object will be described. In this case, only one of the arms 2103L and 2103R (in this example, arm 2103R) executes the predetermined operation. That is, the arm 2103R executes an operation for rotating the flange 2110R in a state in which a movable portion SH of the inspected object 2140 is gripped by the hands 2111R, as the predetermined operation. Thereby, the hands 2111R are rotated by the rotation of the flange 2110R and the movable portion SH is rotated by the predetermined rotational number (for example, 4) in a state where the movable portion is engaged with the engaged component. In this way, the robot controller 2150 detects whether there is abnormality in the inspected object 2140, on the basis of an output signal of the sensor 2130 while the arm 2103R executes the predetermined operation with respect to the inspected object 2140 (which is described in detail below).

In this example, the case where the arm 2103R is operated is described. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the arm 2103L may be operated or both the arms 2103L and 2103R may be operated in cooperation with each other.

FIG. 14 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of the robot controller 2150 according to the second embodiment. In FIG. 14, for the purpose of easy understanding in the drawing, the A/D converter 2131 that is

provided in the casing of each of the arms 2103L and 2103R is illustrated outside the casing.

In FIG. 14, the robot controller 2150 is composed of a computer that includes an operator, a storage device, and an input device (not illustrated in the drawings) and is connected to the individual driving portions or the individual A/D converters 2131 of the robot 2100 through the cable to communicate with each other. The robot controller 2150 has an operation instructing unit 2151, a position instruction intercepting unit 2152, a smoothing processing unit 2153, a servo unit 2154, an abnormality detecting unit 2155, and a gravity torque compensating unit 2157.

The operation instructing unit 2151 calculates a position instruction (operation instruction) with respect to each of the actuators Ac2001 to Ac2015, on the basis of instruction information with respect to each of the arms 2103L and 2103R instructed through the input device, and pools the position instruction to the smoothing processing unit 2153 through the position instruction intercepting unit 2152.

The smoothing processing unit 2153 sequentially outputs the pooled position instruction to the servo unit 2154, for every predetermined operation cycle.

The servo unit 2154 has a joint angle feedback circuit Fp based on a detection value of the encoder of each of the actuators Ac2001 to Ac2015 and a joint angle feedback circuit Fv based on an angular speed detection value obtained from the detection value of the encoder of each of the actuators Ac2001 to Ac2015, for each of the actuators Ac1001 to Ac1015. The servo unit 2154 generates and outputs a torque instruction Tref with each of the actuators Ac2001 to Ac2015 for every predetermined operation cycle, on the basis of the position instructions sequentially input by the smoothing processing unit 2153.

The abnormality detecting unit 2155 detects whether there is abnormality in the inspected object 2140, on the basis of an output value V of the sensor 2130 converted into the digital signal by the A/D converter 2131. The abnormality detecting unit 2155 will be described in detail below.

When the abnormality of the inspection object 2140 is detected by the abnormality detecting unit 2155, the position instruction intercepting unit 2152 intercepts an output of the position instruction from the operation instructing unit 2151 to the smoothing processing unit 2153 and intercepts the position instruction that is transmitted to the servo unit 2154. If the position instruction transmitted to the servo unit 2154 is intercepted, a value of the torque instruction Tref that is output by the feedback decreases and the arms 2103L and 2103R are quickly stopped.

The gravity torque compensating unit 2157 adds gravity compensation torque corresponding to the self weight to the torque instruction Tref with respect to each of the actuators Ac2001 to Ac2015 generated by the servo unit 2154.

FIG. 15 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of the abnormality detecting unit 2155 according to the second embodiment.

In FIG. 15, the abnormality detecting unit 2155 has a high-pass filter unit 2161, a section setting unit 2162, a normative waveform recording unit 2163, an output waveform recording unit 2167, a comparing/determining unit 2164, a zero point adjusting unit 2165, and a threshold value setting unit 2166.

The high-pass filter unit 2161 has a high-pass filter (or it may be a band-pass filter that uses a high frequency band as a pass-band), and extracts a high frequency vibration component of an output signal of the sensor 2130 that is amplified by the amplifying unit 2132 and is converted into the digital signal by the A/D converter 2131, to remove a frequency

component (for example, frequency component due to disturbance) other than a frequency due to the abnormality of the inspected object **2140**, which is included in the output signal of the sensor **2130**. In the high-pass filter of the high-pass filter unit **2161**, a cutoff frequency is determined such that the frequency component (for example, frequency component due to disturbance) other than the frequency due to the abnormality of the inspected object **2140** can be removed.

The section setting unit **2162** sets a section in which the normative waveform recording unit **2163** records a time history of the output value V of the sensor **2130** as the normative waveform, on the basis of input information input by the input device (hereinafter, simply referred to as “recording section”).

The normative waveform recording unit **2163** records the time history of the output value V of the sensor **2130** based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit **2161** while the arms **2103L** and **2103R** execute a predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit **2162** with respect to the inspected object **2140** where there is no abnormality as a normative waveform (refer to FIG. **16** to be described below). The predetermined operation is an operation according to the position instruction that is calculated by the operation instructing unit **2151** on the basis of the instruction information instructed through the input device.

The output waveform recording unit **2167** records the time history of the output value V of the sensor **2130** based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit **2161** while the arms **2103L** and **2103R** perform the predetermined operation with respect to the inspected object **2140** at the time of inspecting as an output waveform (refer to FIG. **17** to be described below).

The threshold value setting unit **2166** sets a threshold value D_{th} that becomes a determination value of generation or non-generation of the abnormality in the comparing/determining unit **2164**, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

The comparing/determining unit **2164** compares the normative waveform recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **2163** and the output waveform recorded in the output waveform recording unit **2167**, and calculates the difference (in detail, absolute value of the difference) “ D ” of the normative waveform and the output waveform. The number of times (hereinafter, referred to as number of times of excess N) of the calculated difference “ D ” exceeding a threshold value D_{th} previously set by the threshold value setting unit **2166** for a constant time (in this example, time needed when the arms **2103L** and **2103R** executes the predetermined operation once with respect to the inspected object **2140**) is calculated. The constant time is not limited to the time needed when the arms **2103L** and **2103R** executes the predetermined operation once with respect to the inspected object **2140**. For example, the constant time may be time that is set through the input device. By determining whether the number of times of excess N counted for each sensor **1122** exceeds the predetermined number of times of determination N_j , the comparing/determining unit **2164** determines whether there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**. Specifically, when the number of times of excess N is within the predetermined number of times of determination N_j , the comparing/determining unit **2164** determines that there is no abnormality in the inspected object **2140**. When the number of times of excess N exceeds the predetermined number of times of determination N_j , the comparing/determining unit **2164** determines that there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**.

The zero point adjusting unit **2165** outputs a reset signal to each sensor **2130** and adjusts a zero point of each sensor **2130**, whenever the arms **2103L** and **2103R** execute the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit **2162** with respect to the inspected object **2140**, to suppress the change in the ambient temperature due to heat generation of the actuators **Ac2002** to **Ac2015** of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** or an influence of the temperature drift of each sensor **2130** generated by self heat generation.

FIG. **16** is a diagram illustrating an output value V of the sensor **2130** when the arms **2103L** and **2103R** according to the second embodiment execute a predetermined operation with respect to the inspected object **2140** where there is no abnormality. FIG. **16** illustrates an example of the normative waveform that is recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **2163** to correspond to the predetermined operation executed by the arms **2103L** and **2103R** with respect to the inspected object **2140** where there is no abnormality, in which in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor **2130**.

In FIG. **16**, at the time of instructing, the arms **2103L** and **2103R** executes the predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **2150**, with respect to the inspected object **2140** where there is no abnormality, and rotates the movable SH by the predetermined rotational number. In the normative waveform recording unit **2163**, the time history of the output value V of the sensor **1122** while the arms **2103L** and **2103R** execute the operation corresponding to the recording section once with respect to the inspected object **2140** is recorded as the normative waveform. The normative waveform can always be recorded, when there is no abnormality in the inspected object **2140**. In this embodiment, an example of the case where the normative waveform is recorded at the time of instructing the predetermined operation with respect to the robot **2100** will be described.

FIG. **17** is a diagram illustrating an output value V of the sensor **2130** when the arms **2103L** and **2103R** according to the second embodiment execute a predetermined operation with respect to the inspected object **2140** at the time of inspecting. FIG. **17** illustrates an example of the output waveform that is recorded in the output waveform recording unit **2167** to correspond to the predetermined operation executed by the arms **2103L** and **2103R** with respect to the inspected object **2140** where there is no abnormality at the time of inspecting, in which in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor **2130**.

In FIG. **17**, at the time of instructing, the arms **2103L** and **2103R** executes the predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **2150**, with respect to the inspected object **2140** (in this example, inspected object **2140** where there is no abnormality), and rotates the movable SH by the predetermined rotational number. In the output waveform recording unit **2167**, the time history of the output value V of the sensor **2130** while the arms **2103L** and **2103R** execute the predetermined operation once with respect to the inspected object **2140** (in this example, inspected object **2140** where there is no abnormality) is recorded as the output waveform. As in this example, when there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140** (for example, when processing precision of the components is low or when assembling precision of the components is high), during the operation of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, a cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is generated in the inspected object **2140** due to rattling during a rotation operation. In

general, when an abnormal vibration or impact such as rattling is generated in the inspected object **2140**, because the force due to the abnormal vibration or impact is applied to the arms **2103L** and **2103R** (the arms **2103L** and **2103R** are twisted, the output value V of the sensor **2130** is likely to increase, as compared with when the abnormal vibration or impact is not generated. Therefore, when there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**, a section where the output value V of the sensor **2130** increases cyclically exists in the output waveform. In the output waveform that is illustrated in FIG. **17**, sections of the four places where the output value V of the sensor **2130** exist.

FIGS. **18A** and **18B** are diagrams illustrating an example of a method of detecting whether there is abnormality in the inspected object **2130** according to the second embodiment. FIG. **18A** illustrates the normative waveform corresponding to FIG. **16** and the output waveform corresponding to FIG. **17**, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor **2130**. FIG. **18B** illustrates a waveform of a time-series change of the difference “ D ”, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates the difference “ D ”.

In FIGS. **18A** and **18B**, as described above, when there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**, a section where the output value V of the sensor **2130** increases cyclically exists in the output waveform. Therefore, by comparing the two waveforms of the normative waveform at the time of instructing recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **2163** and the output waveform at the time of activating recorded in the output waveform recording unit **2167** in a state where there is no abnormality in the inspected object **2140**, the cyclic change of the output waveform with respect to the normative waveform can be detected. Therefore, it can be detected whether there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**. That is, by determining whether the number of times of excess N where the difference “ D ” of the normative waveform and the output waveform exceeding the threshold value D_{th} when the arms **2103L** and **2103R** perform the predetermined operation once with respect to the injected object **2140** exceeds the number of times of determination N_j described above, it can be determined whether there is abnormality in the injected object **2140**. Specifically, when the number of times of excess N is within the number of times of determination N_j , it can be determined that there is no abnormality in the injected object **2140**. When the number of times of excess N exceeds the number of times of determination N_j , it can be determined that there is abnormality in the injected object **2140**. In the examples that are illustrated in FIGS. **18A** and **18B**, the number of times of excess N is “4” as illustrated in FIG. **18**. Therefore, when the number of times of determination N_j is “3” or less, it is determined that there is abnormality in the injected object **2140**.

FIG. **19** is a flowchart illustrating a control sequence that is executed by the robot controller **2150** according to the second embodiment.

In FIG. **19**, a process that is illustrated in a flow is started when a predetermined operation start manipulation is executed through the input device. First, in step **S2010**, the robot controller **2150** determines whether an operation mode of the robot **2100** is an “instruction mode” to perform instructing or an “activation mode” to perform activating, on the basis of input information input through the input device. When the operation mode of the robot **2100** is the “instruction mode”, the determination result of step **S2010** is satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S2020**.

In step **S2020**, the robot controller **2150** sets the recording section in the section setting unit **2162**, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

Then, in step **S2030**, the robot controller **2150** outputs the reset signal to each sensor **2130** and adjusts a zero point of each sensor **2130**, in the zero point adjusting unit **2165**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S2040** and the robot controller **2150** outputs a position instruction with respect to each of the actuators **Ac2001** to **Ac2015**, which is calculated in the operation instructing unit **2151** on the basis of the instruction information with respect to each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** instructed through the input device, to each of the actuators **Ac2001** to **Ac2015**, and starts the predetermined operation according to the corresponding position instruction in the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, with respect to the inspected object **2140** where there is no abnormality.

Then, in step **S2050**, the robot controller **2150** starts recording of the normative waveform, in the normative waveform recording unit **2163**. Therefore, while the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set in step **S2020** and started in step **S2040** is executed by the arms **2103L** and **2103R** with respect to the instructed object **2140**, the normative waveform recording unit **2163** records the time history of the output value V of each sensor **2130** based on the high frequency vibration component amplified by the amplifying unit **2132**, converted into the digital signal by the A/D converter **2131**, and extracted by each high-pass filter **2161** as the normative waveform.

If the arms **2103L** and **2103R** are operated until the operation completion position, the process proceeds to step **S2060** and the robot controller **2150** completes the operations of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**.

Then, in step **S2070**, the robot controller **2150** completes recording of the normative waveform, in the normative waveform recording unit **2163**. The robot controller **2150** ends the process that is illustrated in the flow. The process that is illustrated in the flow is executed by the robot controller **2150**, whenever the predetermined operation start manipulation is executed through the input device.

Meanwhile, in step **S2010**, when the operation mode of the robot **2100** is the “inspection mode”, the determination result of step **S2010** is not satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S2080**.

In step **S2080**, the robot controller **2150** sets the threshold value D_{th} in the threshold value setting unit **2166**, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S2090** and the robot controller **2150** adjusts a zero point of each sensor **2122** in the zero point setting unit **2165**, similar to step **S2030**.

Then, in step **S2100**, the robot controller **2150** outputs a position instruction with respect to each of the actuators **Ac2001** to **Ac2015**, which is calculated in the operation instructing unit **2151** on the basis of the instruction information with respect to each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** instructed through the input device, to each of the actuators **Ac2001** to **Ac2015**, and starts the predetermined operation according to the position instruction in the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, with respect to the instructed object **2140**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S2110** and the robot controller **2150** starts recording of the output waveform for each sensor **2122**, in the output waveform recording unit **2167**. Therefore, while the predetermined operation started in step **S2040** is executed by the arms **2103L** and **2103R** with respect to the inspected object **2140**, the output waveform recording unit **2167** records the time history of the output value V of the sensor **2130** based on the high frequency vibration component amplified by the amplifying unit **2123**,

converted into the digital signal by the A/D converter **2131**, and extracted by the A/D converter **2131** as the output waveform.

Then, if the arms **2103L** and **2103R** are operated until the operation completion position, the process proceeds to step **S2120** and the robot controller **2150** completes the operations of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S2130** and the robot controller **2150** completes recording of the output waveform, in the output waveform recording unit **2167**.

Then, in step **S2140**, the robot controller **2150** compares the two waveforms of the normative waveform recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **2163** and the output waveform in the output waveform recording unit **2167** in the comparing/determining unit **2164**, and calculates the difference "D". The robot controller **2150** counts the number of times of excess N where the calculated difference "D" exceeds the threshold value Dth set in step **S2080** when the arms **2103L** and **2103R** executes the predetermined operation started in step **S2100** and completed in step **S2120** once with respect to the inspected object **2140**. By determining whether the number of times of excess N top be counted exceeds the number of times of determination Nj, it is determined whether there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**. Specifically, when the number of times of excess N is within the predetermined number of times of determination Nj, it is determined that there is no abnormality in the inspected object **2140**. When the number of times of excess N exceeds the predetermined number of times of determination Nj, it is determined that there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S2150** and the robot controller **2150** determines whether it is determined in step **S2140** that there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**. When it is determined that there is no abnormality in the inspected object **2140**, the determination result of step **S2150** is not satisfied and the process that is illustrated in the flow ends. Meanwhile, when it is determined that there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**, the determination result of step **S2150** is satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S2160**.

In step **S2160**, the robot controller **2150** intercepts the output of the position instruction from the operation instructing unit **2151** to the smoothing processing unit **2153** in the position instruction intercepting unit **2152**, outputs the torque instruction Tref generated by the servo unit **1154** to each of the actuators **Ac2001** to **Ac2015**, stops the operation instructed to the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, and notifies an external device of the abnormality of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** in a notifying unit (not illustrated in the drawings).

As described above, the robot **2100** according to this embodiment has the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. In the vicinity of the front end of the casing of each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** (in this example, on the external surface of the casing of each of the twist B portions **2109L** and **2109R**), the sensor **2130** is provided. Thereby, the change of the minute force that is generated in the front ends (hands **2111L** and **2111R**) of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** due to the abnormality of the inspected object **2140** can be detected. As each sensor **2130**, the force sensor that has a piezoelectric body that has a natural frequency higher than that of the structural material (metallic material such as iron or aluminum in the above example) forming each portion of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** is provided. Thereby, since the high frequency vibration or the impact generated in the structural material of each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** due to the abnormality of the inspected object **2140** can be detected, it can be detected with high

precision whether there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**. Since the external force applied to the arms **2103L** and **2103R** (for example, hands **2111L** and **2111R**) can be detected with high precision by the sensor **2130**, it can be detected with high precision whether the robot **2100** is in a normal state or an abnormal state, that is, whether the object contacts the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. Therefore, according to the robot **2100**, it can be detected with high precision whether there is abnormality in the robot **2100** and the inspected object **2140**.

In this embodiment, particularly, a next effect can be obtained. That is, the output signal of the sensor **2130** that is provided in the vicinity of the front end of each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** is transmitted (to the side of the trunk portion **2102**) through the cable provided in the casing of each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. In this case, the output signal of each sensor **2130** is an analog signal. At the time of transmitting the analog signal, a coaxial cable is generally used to suppress noise. However, since the coaxial cable has inferior flexibility, the signals may be erroneously transmitted when the arms **2103L** and **2103R** are bent. Therefore, in this embodiment, the A/D converter **2131** that converts the output signal of the sensor **2130** into the digital signal is provided in the vicinity of the front end of each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** (in casing of each of the twist B portions **2109L** and **2109R** in the above example). Thereby, a cable for a digital signal that has superior flexibility can be provided in the casing of each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. Therefore, the output signal of the sensor **2130** can be securely transmitted without depending on the operation of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** and reliability can be improved.

In this embodiment, particularly, the sensor **2130** is provided on the external surface of the casing of each of the twist B portions **2109L** and **2109R**. Thereby, an arrangement space of the sensor **2130** does not need to be secured in the casing of each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, and the thickness of the front ends of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** can be prevented from increasing.

In this embodiment, particularly, each sensor **2130** is the sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body. By using the sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body as each sensor **2130**, the high frequency vibration that is generated in the casing of each of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** due to abnormality of the inspected object **2140** can be securely detected. Therefore, it can be detected with high precision whether there is abnormality in the inspected object **2140**.

The second embodiment has been described. However, the embodiment may be implemented by various different embodiments other than the second embodiment. Therefore, the various different embodiments are hereinafter described as modifications.

(1) Case Where the Robot is Applied to Detection of a Contact of an Object

In the above embodiment, the robot disclosed in the present application is applied to the detection of the abnormality of the inspected object **2140**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the robot disclosed in the present application may be applied to detection of a contact of the object with respect to the arms **2103L** and **2103R**.

FIG. **20** is a top view illustrating the configuration of a robot **2100** according to this modification. FIG. **20** corresponds to FIG. **12** described above. The same components as those of FIG. **12** are denoted by the same reference numeral and the description thereof is appropriately described.

As illustrated in FIG. **20**, the robot **2100** according to this modification is different from the robot **2100** according to the

second embodiment in that two sensor units **2120L** and **2120R** are additionally provided. Each of the sensor units **2120L** and **2120R** includes a disk-shaped sensor fixing jig **2121** and at least one sensor **2122** (second strain sensor) (in this example, three sensors) that has an approximately rectangular solid shape. The sensor fixing jig **2121** of the sensor unit **2120L** is attached to a base of a stator of the actuator **Ac2002** of the arm **2103L** that is positioned to be closest to the side of the base end, and each sensor **2122** that is provided in the sensor fixing jig **2121** can detect the force applied the arm **2103L** (in detail, amount of strain caused by a vibration due to the impact force applied to the arm **2103L**, not the magnitude of the force). The sensor fixing jig **2121** of the sensor unit **2120R** is attached to a base of a stator of the actuator **Ac2002** of the arm **2103R** that is positioned to be closest to the side of the base end, and each sensor **2122** that is provided in the sensor fixing jig **2121** can detect the force applied the arm **2103R** (in detail, amount of strain caused by a vibration due to the impact force applied to the arm **2103R**, not the magnitude of the force).

In this modification, as each sensor **2122**, a force sensor that has a piezoelectric body made of a material having a natural frequency (or rigidity) higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, in this example, a sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body is used. Each sensor **2122** is not limited to the sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body, and may be the force sensor that has a piezoelectric body having a natural frequency higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. Each sensor **2122** of the sensor unit **2120L** detects the amount of strain of a radial direction of the sensor fixing jig **2121** due to the force applied to the arm **2103L** as a voltage and each sensor **2122** of the sensor unit **2120R** detects the amount of strain of a radial direction of the sensor fixing jig **2121** due to the force applied to the arm **2103R** as a voltage. The voltage that is obtained by each sensor **2122** is amplified by the amplifying unit **2132** and is input to the high-pass filter unit **2161**.

The other configuration is the same as that of the robot **2100** according to the second embodiment. In this modification, a contact detecting unit (not illustrated in the drawings) of the robot controller **2150** detects whether the object contacts the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, on the basis of the output value **V** (output signal) of each sensor **2122** of the sensor units **2120L** and **2120R**. In this specification, the object is defined as a meaning including the inspected object **2140**, the robot **2100**, a work apparatus, a part of a building such as a wall, and an organism such as a living body.

That is, as described above, each sensor **2122** of the sensor units **2120L** and **2120R** detects the force that is applied to the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. As the force that is applied to the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, the internal force that is generated by the operation of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** and the external force that is applied to the arms **2103L** and **2103R** from the outside are considered. The external force is not applied to the arms **2103L** and **2103R** when the arms **2103L** and **2103R** are operated in a state in which the object does not contact the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. Therefore, each sensor **2122** detects only the vibration due to the internal force. Meanwhile, when the object contacts the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, the internal force and the external force are applied to the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. Therefore, each sensor **2122** detects the vibrations due to the internal force and the external force. For this reason, when the object contacts the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, the output value **V** of the sensor **2122** increases by the amount

corresponding to the external force. Therefore, in this modification, the contact detecting unit compares output data of the output value **V** of the sensor **2122** when the arms **2103L** and **2103R** execute the predetermined operation with respect to the inspected object **2140** at the time of inspecting and the normative waveforms previously recorded as the time history of the output value **V** of the sensor **2122** while the arms **2103L** and **2103R** execute the predetermined operation with respect to the inspected object **2140** in a state in which the object does not contact the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, and determines whether the object contacts the arms **2103L** and **2103R**.

FIG. **21** schematically illustrates an example of the predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **2103L** and **2103R** with respect to the inspected object **2140** at the time of inspecting. In the example that is illustrated in FIG. **21**, at the time of inspecting, under an environment in which an obstacle **B** exists around the robot **2100** (within the movable range of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**), the arms **2103L** and **2103R** perform the predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **2150**, with respect to the inspected object **2140**. At this time, the contact detecting unit compares the output data of the output value **V** of each sensor **2122** and the previously recorded normative waveform and determines whether the object contacts the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. When the contact detecting unit detects the contact of the object (obstacle **B** in this example) with respect to the arms **2103L** and **2103R** during a period until the arms **2103L** and **2103R** completes the predetermined operation, the robot controller **2150** stops the operation of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** at the corresponding position (position illustrated at the right side of FIG. **21**).

In this example, the case where the contact of the obstacle **B** with respect to the arms **2103L** and **2103R** is detected and the operation is stopped when the contact is detected is described. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the contact of the inspected object **2140** with respect to the arms **2103L** and **2103R** may be detected, the operation may be stopped when the contact is detected, and the product **P** may be gripped by the hands **2111L** and **2111R**.

In this modification described above, the sensor **2122** that has a piezoelectric body having a natural frequency higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** is provided in the bases of the actuators **Ac2002** and **Ac2009** of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** closest to the side of the base end. Since the external force applied to the arms **2103L** and **2103R** can be detected by the sensor **2122**, it can be detected whether the object contacts the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. Since the sensor **2122** is provided in the bases of the actuators **Ac2002** and **Ac2009** of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** closest to the side of the base end, a contact at the side of the front end thereof can be detected. That is, a contact with respect to the entire arms **2103L** and **2103R** can be detected. Therefore, excessive load can be avoided from being applied to the robot **2100** or the object existing around the robot **2100**.

(2) Case Where the Robot is Applied to Detection of Abnormality of the Arms

In the above embodiment, the robot disclosed in the present application is applied to detection of abnormality of the inspected object **2140** and detection of a contact of the object with respect to the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the robot disclosed in the present application may be applied to detection of abnormality of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**.

The configuration of the robot **2100** according to this modification is the same as that of the robot **2100** according to the modification of (1). In this modification, the robot controller

2150 detects generation or non-generation based on aging of a rotation member such as the actuators **Ac2002** to **Ac2015** provided in the arms **2103L** and **2103R** and the decelerator, on the basis of an output value **V** (output signal) of each sensor **2122** of the sensor units **2120L** and **2120R**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the robot controller **2150** may detect generation or non-generation (including abnormality based on aging of the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac2002** to **Ac2015** or the decelerator or abnormality of the casings of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**) of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**.

In this case, when the abnormality based on aging is generated in a rotation member such as the actuators **Ac2002** to **Ac2015** of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** and the decelerator, an abnormal place cyclically appears in a rotation phase. For this reason, when the arms **2103L** and **2103R** are operated, a cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is easily generated. In general, when the cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is generated in the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, because the force due to the cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is transmitted to the arms **2103L** and **2103R** (the arms **2103L** and **2103R** are twisted), the output value **V** of the sensor **2122** is likely to increase, as compared with when the abnormal vibration or the impact is not generated. Therefore, when the abnormality based on aging is generated in a rotation member such as the actuators **Ac2002** to **Ac2015** of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** and the decelerator, a section where the output value **V** of the sensor **2122** increases cyclically exists in the output waveform that is the time history of the output value of the sensor **2122**. Therefore, in this modification, the robot controller **2150** compares the normative waveform to be the time history of the output value **V** of each sensor **2122** previously recorded in a state where there is no abnormality in the arms **2103L** and **2103R** and the output waveform to be the time history of the output value **V** of each sensor **2122** while the arms **2103L** and **2103R** execute the predetermined operation once with respect to the inspected object **2140** at the time of inspecting, detects the cyclic change of the output waveform with respect to the normative waveform, and determines whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac2002** to **Ac2015** of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**.

In this modification, a next effect can be obtained. That is, by providing the sensors **2122** having the piezoelectric body having a natural frequency higher than that of the structural material forming each portion of the arms **2103L** and **2103R**, the high frequency abnormal vibration or the impact that is generated in the structural material of each portion of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** due to the abnormality based on the aging of the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac2002** to **Ac2015** of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** and the decelerator can be detected, and it can be detected whether there is abnormality in the arms **2103L** and **2103R**. Since the sensors **2122** are provided in the bases of the actuators **Ac2002** and **Ac2009** of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** closest to the side of the base end, the abnormal vibration based on the rotation member such as all of the actuators at the side of the front end thereof or the decelerator can be detected. That is, abnormality with respect to the entire arms **2103L** and **2103R** can be detected.

In this embodiment, particularly, as each sensor **2122**, the sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body is used. Thereby, the high frequency abnormal vibration or the impact that is generated in the structural material of each portion of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** due to the abnormality based on the aging of the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac2002** and **Ac2009** of the arms **2103L** and **2103R** or the

decelerator can be securely detected. Therefore, it can be detected with high precision whether there is abnormality in the arms **2103L** and **2103R**.

(3) Case Where the Robot is Applied to a Single-Arm Robot

In the above embodiment, the robot disclosed in the present application is applied to the robot **2100** to be the dual-arm robot that has the two arms **2103L** and **2103R**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the robot disclosed in the present application may be applied to a single-arm robot that has one robot arm. Even in this case, the same effect as that of the above embodiment can be obtained.

(4) Others

In the above embodiment, the mechanical product that includes the components engaged with each other is used as the inspection object. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and various mechanical products or electric products may be used as inspection objects.

For example, the robot according to this embodiment may be applied to detection of abnormality of a closing state of a plastic cover or detection of abnormality of an operation button of a cellular phone.

In the above embodiment, the configuration where only the robot controller **2150** is provided as the control system is used. A control device that has a function as a contact detecting unit connected to a sensor system may be provided separately from the robot controller **2150** to control an operation of the robot **2100** to form one control system.

In addition to the configuration described above, the configuration where the methods according to the embodiment and the modifications are appropriately combined may be used.

Although not specifically described, this embodiment can be variously changed in a range that does not depart from the spirit and scope of the embodiment.

Next, a third embodiment will be described.

In a field of robots, it is preferable to avoid an excessive load from being generated with respect to a robot or an object existing around the robot. For this reason, various technologies for detecting generation or non-generation of a contact (external force) with respect to the robot are studied.

For example, a technology for attaching a force detector to detect the external force to a base end of a robot arm and stopping an operation of the robot arm on the basis of the detection result of the force detector or operating the robot arm in a reduction direction of the external force when the excessive external force is applied is disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (JP-A) No. 2006-21287.

In the related art, it is preferable to detect a contact or a non-contact with respect to the robot arm with high precision in order to improve functionality of the robot.

In the related art, the actual external force that is applied to the robot arm is calculated by subtracting the internal force generated by an operation of the robot arm from the force detected by the force detector. For this reason, responsiveness with respect to the contact of the robot arm is late. In the case of a slight contact or a momentary contact, the contact may not be detected with high precision.

According to one aspect of an embodiment, a robot system that can improve functionality of a robot and a robot state determining method are provided.

According to this embodiment, the functionality of the robot can be improved.

Hereinafter, the third embodiment will be described with reference to the drawings. This embodiment is an example of the case where the robot system and the robot state determin-

ing method disclosed in the present application is applied to product grip control based on a dual-arm robot having two robot arms.

FIG. 22 is a conceptual diagram illustrating the entire configuration of the robot system according to the third embodiment. FIG. 23 is a top view illustrating the configuration of the robot according to the third embodiment.

In FIGS. 22 and 23, a robot system 3001 according to this embodiment is a system that includes a robot 3001 provided on one side of a belt conveyor 3002 to convey plural products P and a robot controller 3150 (control unit) to control the robot 3100. The robot 3100 is a dual-arm robot and has a base 3101, a trunk portion 3102, two arms 3103L and 3103R (robot arms), and two sensor units 3120L and 3120R.

The base 3101 is fixed to a mounting surface (floor) by an anchor bolt (not illustrated in the drawings). The trunk portion 3102 has a first joint portion in which an actuator Ac3001 driven to rotate around a rotation axis Ax3001 is provided. The trunk portion 3102 is disposed to rotate with respect to the base 3101 through the first joint portion and rotates in a direction approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac3001 provided in the first joint portion. The trunk portion 3102 supports the arms 3103L and 3103R that are configured as separate objects, at one side (right side in FIGS. 22 and 23) and the other side (left side in FIGS. 22 and 23), respectively.

The arm 3103L is a manipulator that is provided on one side of the trunk portion 3102. The arm 3103L has a shoulder portion 3104L, an upper arm A portion 3105L, an upper arm B portion 3106L, a lower arm portion 3107L, a wrist A portion 3108L, a wrist B portion 3109L, a flange 3110L, a hand 3111L, and second to eighth joint portions in which actuators Ac3002 to Ac3008 to drive rotation of the individual portions are provided, respectively.

The shoulder portion 3104L is connected to the trunk portion 3102 to rotate through the second joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3002 approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac3002 provided in the second joint portion. The upper arm A portion 3105L is connected to the shoulder portion 3104L to rotate through the third joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3003 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3002 by driving of the actuator Ac3003 provided in the third joint portion. The upper arm B portion 3106L is connected to a front end of the upper arm A portion 3105L shoulder portion 3104L to rotate through the fourth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3004 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3003 by driving of the actuator Ac3004 provided in the fourth joint portion. The lower arm portion 3107L is connected to the upper arm B portion 3106L to rotate through the fifth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3005 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3004 by driving of the actuator Ac3005 provided in the fifth joint portion. The wrist A portion 3108L is connected to a front end of the lower arm portion 3107L to rotate through the sixth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3006 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3005 by driving of the actuator Ac3006 provided in the sixth joint portion. The wrist B portion 3109L is connected to the wrist A portion 3108L to rotate through the seventh joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3007 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3006 by driving of the actuator Ac3007 provided in the seventh joint portion. The flange 3110L is connected to a front end of the wrist B portion 3109L to rotate through the eighth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3008 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3007 by driving of the actuator Ac3008 provided in the eighth joint por-

tion. The hand 3111L is attached to a front end of the flange 3110L and rotates according to the rotation of the flange 3110L.

The arm 3103R is a manipulator that is provided on the other side of the trunk portion 3102 and has the same structure as that of the arm 3103L. The arm 3103R has a shoulder portion 3104R, an upper arm A portion 3105R, an upper arm B portion 3106R, a lower arm portion 3107R, a wrist A portion 3108R, a wrist B portion 3109R, a flange 3110R, a hand 3107R, and ninth to fifteenth joint portions in which actuators Ac3009 to Ac3015 to drive rotation of the individual portions are provided, respectively.

The shoulder portion 3104R is connected to the trunk portion 3102 to rotate through the ninth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3009 approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac3009 provided in the ninth joint portion. The upper arm A portion 3105R is connected to the shoulder portion 3104R to rotate through the tenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3010 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3009 by driving of the actuator Ac3010 provided in the tenth joint portion. The upper arm B portion 3106R is connected to a front end of the upper arm A portion 3105R to be rotatable through the eleventh joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3011 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3010 by driving of the actuator Ac3011 provided in the eleventh joint portion. The lower arm portion 3107R is connected to the upper arm B portion 3106R to rotate through the twelfth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3012 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3011 by driving of the actuator Ac3012 provided in the twelfth joint portion. The wrist A portion 3108R is connected to a front end of the lower arm portion 3107R to rotate through the thirteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3013 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3012 by driving of the actuator Ac3013 provided in the thirteenth joint portion. The wrist B portion 3109R is connected to the wrist A portion 3108R to rotate through the fourteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3014 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3013 by driving of the actuator Ac3014 provided in the fourteenth joint portion. The flange 3110R is connected to a front end of the wrist B portion 3109R to rotate through the fifteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax3015 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax3014 by driving of the actuator Ac3015 provided in the fifteenth joint portion. The hand 3111R is attached to a front end of the flange 3110R and rotates according to the rotation of the flange 3110R.

In this example, each of the arms 3103L and 3103R has seven joint portions, that is, degrees of freedom of 7 (redundant degree of freedom). However, the degrees of freedom of each of the arms 3103L and 3103R are not limited to "7".

As structural materials that form the shoulder portions 3104L and 3104R, the upper arm A portion 3105L and 3105R, the upper arm B portions 3106L and 3106R, the lower arm portions 3107L and 3107R, the wrist A portions 3108L and 3108R, the wrist B portions 3109L and 3109R, the flanges 3110L and 3110R, and the hands 3111L and 3111R of the arms 3103L and 3103R, metallic materials such as iron or aluminum are used.

As illustrated in FIG. 23, the trunk portion 3102 is formed to protrude forward in a horizontal direction from the first joint portion to the second and ninth joint portions, with respect to the base 3101, such that the rotation axis Ax3001 of the first joint portion and the rotation axes Ax3002 and Ax3009 of the second and ninth joint portions are offset by the length D1 in a direction approximately horizontal to the mounting surface. Thereby, a space of the lower side of the

shoulder portions **3104L** and **3104R** can be used as a work space, and a reachable range of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** can be enlarged by rotating the rotation axis **Ax3001**.

A shape of the upper arm B portion **3106R** is set such that the positions of the rotation axis **Ax3001** of the eleventh joint portion and the rotation axis **Ax3012** of the twelfth joint portion in plan view are offset by the length **D2**. A shape of the lower arm portion **3107R** is set such that the positions of the rotation axis **Ax3012** of the twelfth joint portion and the rotation axis **Ax3013** of the thirteenth joint portion in plan view are offset by the length **D3**. When the rotation axis **Ax3011** and the rotation axis **Ax3013** takes an approximately horizontal posture, the offset length of the rotation axis **Ax3011** and the rotation axis **Ax3013** becomes $(D2+D3)$. Thereby, when the twelfth joint portion corresponding to a human "elbow" is bent, clearance of the upper arm A portion **3105R** and the upper arm B portion **3106R** corresponding to a human "upper arm" and the lower arm portion **3107R** corresponding to a human "lower arm" can be greatly secured. Even when the hand **3111R** comes close to the trunk portion **3102**, a freedom degree of the arm **3103R** at the time of an operation increases.

Although not clearly illustrated in FIG. 23, similar to the arm **3103R**, in the arm **3103L**, a shape of the upper arm B portion **3106L** is set such that the positions of the rotation axis **Ax3004** of the fourth joint portion and the rotation axis **Ax3005** of the fifth joint portion in upper view are offset by the length **D2**. A shape of the lower arm portion **3107L** is set such that the positions of the rotation axis **Ax3005** of the fifth joint portion and the rotation axis **Ax3006** of the sixth joint portion in upper view are offset by the length **D3**. When the rotation axis **Ax3004** and the rotation axis **Ax3006** takes an approximately horizontal posture, the offset length of the rotation axis **Ax3004** and the rotation axis **Ax3006** becomes $(D2+D3)$.

As illustrated in FIG. 23, each of the sensor units **3120L** and **3120R** includes a disk-shaped sensor fixing jig **3121** and at least one sensor **3122** (second strain sensor) (in this example, three sensors) that has an approximately rectangular solid shape. The sensor fixing jig **3121** of the sensor unit **3120L** is attached to a base of a stator of the actuator **Ac3002** of the arm **3103L** that is positioned to be closest to the side of the base end, and each sensor **3122** that is provided in the sensor fixing jig **3121** can detect the force applied the arm **3103L** (in detail, amount of strain caused by a vibration due to the impact force applied to the arm **3103L**, not the magnitude of the force). The sensor fixing jig **3121** of the sensor unit **3120R** is attached to a base of a stator of the actuator **Ac2002** of the arm **3103R** that is positioned to be closest to the side of the base end, and each sensor **3122** that is provided in the sensor fixing jig **3121** can detect the force applied the arm **3103R** (in detail, amount of strain caused by a vibration due to the impact force applied to the arm **3103R**, not the magnitude of the force). The sensor units **3120L** and **3120R** will be described in detail below.

In the robot **3100** that has the above-described configuration, operations of individual driving portions that include the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015** are controlled by the robot controller **3150**, such that the operation is stopped and the product **P** is gripped by the hands **3111L** and **3111R**, when the arms **3103L** and **3103R** are operated toward the inner side more than both sides of the product **P** on the belt conveyor **3002** and a contact of the object with respect to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** is detected. Each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015** is composed of a decelerator-integrated servo motor that has a hollow portion where a cable (not illustrated in the drawings) can be inserted, and the rotation positions of

the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015** are converted into signals from encoders (not illustrated in the drawings) incorporated in the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015** and the signals are input to the robot controller **3150** through the cable.

FIG. 24 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of the robot controller **3150** according to the third embodiment.

In FIG. 24, the robot controller **3150** is composed of a computer that includes an operator, a storage device, and an input device (not illustrated in the drawings) and is connected to each driving portion or each sensor **3122** of the robot **3100** through the cable to communicate with each other. The robot controller **3150** has an operation instructing unit **3151**, a position instruction intercepting unit **3152**, a smoothing processing unit **3153**, a servo unit **3154**, a contact detecting unit **3155**, a grip torque compensating unit **3156**, and a gravity torque compensating unit **3157**.

The operation instructing unit **3151** calculates a position instruction (operation instruction) with respect to each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015**, on the basis of instruction information with respect to each of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** instructed through the input device, and pools the position instruction to the smoothing processing unit **3153** through the position instruction intercepting unit **3152**.

The smoothing processing unit **3153** sequentially outputs the pooled position instruction to the servo unit **3154**, for every predetermined operation cycle.

The servo unit **3154** has a joint angle feedback circuit **Fp** based on a detection value of the encoder of each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015** and a joint angle feedback circuit **Fv** based on an angular speed detection value obtained from the detection value of the encoder of each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015**, for each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015**. The servo unit **3154** generates and outputs a torque instruction **Tref** with each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015** for every predetermined operation cycle, on the basis of the position instructions sequentially input by the smoothing processing unit **3153**.

The contact detecting unit **3155** detects whether the robot **3100** is in a normal state or an abnormal state, on the basis of an output value **V** of each sensor **3122** of the sensor units **3120L** and **3120R**. In this specification, a state in which the object does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R** is defined as a normal state and a state in which the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R** is defined as an abnormal state. Therefore, the object is defined as a meaning including the robot **3100**, a work apparatus such as the belt conveyor **3002**, a part of a building such as a wall, and an organism such as a living body, in addition to the product **P** to be the grip object. That is, in this embodiment, the contact detecting unit **3155** detects whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**, on the basis of the output value **V** (output signal) of each sensor **3122** of the sensor units **3120L** and **3120R**. The contact detecting unit **3155** will be described in detail below.

When a contact of the object with respect to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** is detected by the contact detecting unit **3155**, the position instruction intercepting unit **3152** intercepts an output from the operation instructing unit **3151** to the smoothing processing unit **3153** and intercepts the position instruction that is transmitted to the servo unit **3154**. If the position instruction transmitted to the servo unit **3154** is intercepted, a value of the torque instruction **Tref** that is output by the feedback decreases and the arms **3103L** and **3103R** are quickly stopped.

The grip torque compensating unit **3156** adds grip compensation torque corresponding to the self weight to grip the product **P** by the arms **3103L** and **3103R** to the torque instruc-

tion Tref with respect to each of the actuators Ac3001 to Ac3015 generated by the servo unit 3154.

The gravity torque compensating unit 3157 adds gravity compensation torque corresponding to the self weight to the torque instruction Tref with respect to each of the actuators Ac3001 to Ac3015 generated by the servo unit 3154.

FIG. 25 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of the abnormality detecting unit 3155 according to the third embodiment.

In FIG. 25, the contact detecting unit 3155 has a high-pass filter unit 3161, a section setting unit 3162, a normative data recording unit 3163, a determining unit 3164, a zero point adjusting unit 3165, and a threshold value setting unit 3166.

The high-pass filter unit 3161 extracts a high frequency vibration component of an output signal of each sensor 3122 to remove a frequency component due to disturbance included in the output signal of each sensor 3122 of the sensor units 3120L and 3120R. The high-pass filter unit 3161 will be described in detail below.

The section setting unit 3162 sets a section in which the normative data recording unit 3163 records a time history of the output value V of the sensor unit 3122 as the normative waveform (normative data), on the basis of input information input by the input device (hereinafter, simply referred to as "recording section").

The normative waveform recording unit 3163 records the time history of the output value V of each sensor 3122 based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit 3161 while the arms 3103L and 3103R execute a predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit 3162 in a normal state, that is, in a state in which the object does not contact, as a normative waveform for each sensor 3122. The predetermined operation is an operation according to the position instruction that is calculated by the operation instructing unit 3151 on the basis of the instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) instructed through the input device.

The threshold value setting unit 3166 sets a threshold value Dth that becomes a determination value of a contact or a non-contact in the determining unit 3164, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

The determining unit 3164 compares output data of the output value V of each sensor 3122 based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit 3161 when the arms 3013L and 3013R execute the predetermined operation at the time of activating and the normative waveform recorded in the normative data recording unit 3163 for each sensor 3122, for each sensor 3122, and calculates the difference (in detail, absolute value of the difference) "D" of the output data and the normative waveform for each sensor 3122. By comparing the difference "D" calculated for each sensor 3122 and a threshold value Dth previously set by the threshold value setting unit 3166 for each sensor 3122, the determining unit 3164 determines whether the robot 3100 is in a normal state or an abnormal state, that is, whether the object contacts the arms 3013L and 3103R. The determining unit 3164 will be described in detail below.

The zero point adjusting unit 3165 outputs a reset signal to each sensor 3122 and adjusts a zero point of each sensor 3122, whenever the arms 3103L and 3103R execute the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit 3162, to suppress the change in the ambient temperature due to heat generation of the actuators

Ac3002 to Ac3015 of the arms 3103L and 3103R or an influence of the temperature drift of each sensor 3122 generated by self heat generation.

FIG. 26 is a diagram illustrating the detailed configuration of the sensor unit 3120L and 3120R, the high-pass filter unit 3161, and the determining unit 3164 according to the third embodiment.

In FIG. 26, as described above, each of the sensor units 3120L and 3120R includes a disk-shaped sensor fixing jig 3121 and three sensors 3122 that have an approximately rectangular parallelepiped shape. The three sensors 3122 of the sensor unit 3120L are disposed on an inner surface of the sensor fixing jig 3121, that is, a surface, (the surface on the left in FIG. 23 and the surface in front of a plane of paper in FIG. 26), which is not attached to the base of the stator of the actuator Ac3002, such that the three sensors 3122 are disposed at an equal interval on the same circumference and are radially disposed. The three sensors 3122 of the sensor unit 3120R are disposed on the inner surface of the sensor fixing jig 3121, that is, a surface, (the surface on the right side in FIG. 23 and surface in front of a plane of paper in FIG. 26), which is not attached to the base of the stator of the actuator Ac3009, such that the three sensors 3122 are disposed at an equal interval on the same circumference and are radially disposed.

In this embodiment, a force sensor that has a piezoelectric body made of a material having a natural frequency (rigidity) higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms 3103L and 3103R, in this example, a sensor where quartz is used as the piezoelectric body is used as each sensor 3122. This is because that the change force including a high frequency component can be detected when a natural frequency is high and the quartz has a natural frequency (or rigidity) higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms 3103L and 3103R. Therefore, a minute high frequency vibration (fast deformation and dynamic strain) that is transmitted to the structural material of each portion of the arms 3103L and 3103R can be detected.

Each sensor 3122 is not limited to the sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body and may be a force sensor that has a piezoelectric body made of a material having a natural frequency higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms 3103L and 3103R. Each sensor 3122 of the sensor unit 3120L detects the amount of strain of a radial direction of the sensor fixing jig 3121 due to the force applied to the arm 3103L and each sensor 3122 of the sensor unit 3120R detects the amount of strain of a radial direction of the sensor fixing jig 3121 due to the force applied to the arm 3103R. The voltage that is obtained by each sensor 3122 is amplified by an amplifying unit 3123 and is input to each high-pass filter 3161A (to be described below) of the high-pass filter unit 3161.

The high-pass filter unit 3161 has plural high-pass filters 3161A (or band-pass filters using a high frequency band as a pass-band) that can extract a high frequency vibration component of the output signal of the sensor 3122, and the high frequency component of the output signal of each sensor 3122 that is amplified by the amplifying unit 3123 is extracted by each high-pass filter 3161A. In each high-pass filter 3161A, a cut-off frequency is determined to remove a frequency component due to an event other than a contact such as an operation of the actuators Ac3002 to Ac3015.

By comparing the difference "D" calculated for each sensor 3122 at the time of activating with a threshold value Dth previously set by the threshold value setting unit 3166 for each sensor 3122, the determining unit 3164 determines

whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. Specifically, when among the difference “D” for each sensor **3122**, the difference “D” for every sensor **3122** is within the threshold value D_{th} , the determining unit **3164** determines that the object does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. When the difference “D” for any one of all of the sensors **3122** exceeds the threshold value D_{th} , the determining unit **3164** determines that the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**.

FIGS. **27A** and **27B** are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **3103L** and **3103R** according to the third embodiment in a state in which there is no contact between the arms **3103L** and **3103R**, and an object, and illustrating an output value V of the sensor **3122** during the predetermined operation. FIG. **27A** schematically illustrates the predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **3103L** and **3103R** in a state in which the arms **3103L** and **3103R** do not contact the object. FIG. **27B** illustrates a waveform of a time history of the output value V of the sensor **3122** while the arms **3103L** and **3103R** execute the operation illustrated in FIG. **27A**, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor **3122**.

In FIGS. **27A** and **27B**, at the time of inspecting, under an environment in which the product P to be the grip object does not exist and an object (obstacle) does not exist around the robot **3100** (within the movable range of the arms **3103L** and **3103R**), that is, in a state in which the object does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R**, the arms **3103L** and **3103R** execute the predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **3150**, that is, the operation from the instructed operation start position (position illustrated at the left side of FIG. **27A**) to the instructed operation completion position (position illustrated at the right side of FIG. **27A**). The operation completion position is set to the position where the hands **3111L** and **3111R** can grip the minimum product p among the products P conveyed by the belt conveyor **3002**.

In this case, as described above, each sensor **3122** of the sensor units **3120L** and **3120R** detects the force that is applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. As the force that is applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R**, the internal force that is generated by the operation of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** and the external force that is applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** from the outside are considered. The external force is not applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** when the arms **3103L** and **3103R** are operated in a state in which the object illustrated in FIG. **27A** does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. Therefore, each sensor **3122** detects only the vibration due to the internal force.

FIGS. **28A** and **28B** are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **3103L** and **3103R** according to the third embodiment at the time of activating and an output value V of the sensor **3122** during the predetermined operation. FIG. **28A** schematically illustrates the predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **3103L** and **3103R** at the time of activating. FIG. **28B** illustrates a waveform of a time history of the output value V of the sensor **3122** while the arms **3103L** and **3103R** execute the operation illustrated in FIG. **28A**, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor **3122**.

In FIGS. **28A** and **28B**, at the time of activating, the arms **3103L** and **3103R** execute the predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **3150**, that is, the operation from the instructed operation start position (position illustrated at the left side of FIG. **28A**) to

the instructed operation completion position (position illustrated at the right side of FIG. **28A**). At this time, the arms **3103L** and **3103R** are operated from the operation start position to the inner side more than both sides of the product P on the belt conveyor **3002** (not illustrated in FIG. **28A**). If the contact of the object with respect to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** during the operation until the operation completion position, the arms **3103L** and **3103R** stop the operation at the corresponding position such that the product P is gripped by the hands **3111L** and **3111R**.

In this case, the external force is not applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** when the arms **3103L** and **3103R** are operated in a state in which the object does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. Therefore, each sensor **3122** detects only the vibration due to the internal force. When the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R** during the activation (in this example, when the product P contacts the inner side of the hands **3111L** and **3111R**), the internal force and the external force are applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. Therefore, each sensor **3122** detects the vibration due to the internal force and the external force. For this reason, as illustrated in FIG. **28B**, when the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R** during the activation, the output value V of the sensor **3122** is increased by the amount corresponding to the external force. The arms **3103L** and **3103R** stop the operation when the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R** and grip the product P . Therefore, after the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**, the output value V of the sensor **3122** becomes almost a constant value, as illustrated in FIG. **28B**.

FIGS. **29A** and **29B** are diagrams illustrating an example of a method of detecting a contact of an object with respect to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** according to the third embodiment. FIG. **29A** illustrates the normative waveform and a waveform of the time history of the output value V of the sensor **3122** at the time of activating, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor **3122**. FIG. **29B** illustrates a waveform of a time-series change of the difference “D”, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates the difference “D”.

In FIGS. **29A** and **29B**, as described above, in the normative data recording unit **3163**, the time history of the output value V of each sensor **3122** while the arms **3103L** and **3103R** execute the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit **3162** is recorded as the normative waveform. The normative waveform can always be recorded in a state in which the object does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. In this embodiment, an example of the case where the normative waveform is recorded at the time of instructing the predetermined operation with respect to the robot **3100** will be described. The normative waveform is data of the time history of the output value V of the sensor **3122** actually recorded while the arms **3103L** and **3103R** are operated in a state in which the object does not contact at the time of instructing. Therefore, the normative waveform corresponds to the internal force. Therefore, by comparing the normative waveform and the output data of the output value V of the sensor **3122** at the time of activating, specifically, calculating the difference “D” of the output data and the normative waveform, the external force that is applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** during the activation can be detected. That is, the difference “D” corresponds to the external force. By comparing the difference “D” and the threshold value D_{th} to be the determination value of a contact or a non-contact previously set by the threshold value setting unit **3166**, it can be determined whether the external force is applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R**, that is, it can be

determined where the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. Specifically, when the difference “D” is within the range of the threshold value D_{th} , it is determined that the external force is not applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R**, that is, that the object does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. When the difference “D” exceeds the threshold value D_{th} , it can be determined that the external force is applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R**, that is, that the object does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R**.

The waveform of the time history of the output value V of the sensor **3122** at the time of activating illustrated in FIG. **29A** is illustrated as an example of a waveform when the object momentarily contacts (when the external force is not immediately applied after the contact), like when a ball hits the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. According to the above method, a momentary contact can be detected. As described in this embodiment, when this method is applied to product grip control based on the dual-arm robot, the waveform of the time history of the output value V of the sensor **3122** becomes have almost a constant value after the contact, as described above in FIG. **28B**.

FIG. **30** is a flowchart illustrating a control sequence based on the robot state determining method that is executed by the robot controller **3150** according to the third embodiment.

In FIG. **30**, a process that is illustrated in a flow is started when a predetermined operation start manipulation is executed through the input device. First, in step **S3010**, the robot controller **3150** determines whether an operation mode of the robot **3100** is an “instruction mode” to perform instructing or an “activation mode” to perform activating, on the basis of input information input through the input device. When the operation mode of the robot **3100** is the “instruction mode”, the determination result of step **S3010** is satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S3020**.

In step **S3020**, the robot controller **3150** sets the recording section in the section setting unit **3162**, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

Then, in step **S3030**, the robot controller **3150** outputs the reset signal to each sensor **3122** and adjusts a zero point of each sensor **3122**, in the zero point adjusting unit **3165**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S3040** and the robot controller **3150** outputs a position instruction with respect to each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015**, which is calculated in the operation instructing unit **3151** on the basis of the instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) with respect to each of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** instructed through the input device, to each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015**, and starts the predetermined operation (refer to FIG. **27A**) according to the position instruction in the arms **3103L** and **3103R** in a state in which the object does not contact.

Then, in step **S3050**, the robot controller **3150** starts inputting (acquiring) of the output value V of each sensor **3122** and starts recording of the normative waveform for each sensor **3122**, in the normative waveform recording unit **3163**. Therefore, when the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set in step **S3020** and started in step **S3040** is executed by the arms **3103L** and **3103R** in a state in which the object does not contact, the output value V of each sensor **3122** based on the high frequency vibration component amplified by the amplifying unit **3123** and extracted by each high-pass filter **3161A** is input and the normative data recording unit **3163** records the time history of the input output value V of each sensor **3122** as the normative waveform for each sensor **3122**.

If the arms **3103L** and **3103R** are operated until the operation completion position, the process proceeds to step **S3060** and the robot controller **3150** completes the operations of the arms **3103L** and **3103R**.

Then, in step **S3070**, the robot controller **3150** completes the inputting (acquiring) of the output value V of each sensor **3122** and completes recording of the normative waveform for each sensor **3122** in the normative waveform recording unit **3163**. The robot controller **3150** ends the process that is illustrated in the flow. The process that is illustrated in the flow is executed by the robot controller **3150**, whenever the predetermined operation start manipulation is executed through the input device.

Meanwhile, in step **S3010**, when the operation mode of the robot **3100** is the “activation mode”, the determination result of step **S3010** is not satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S3080**.

In step **S3080**, the robot controller **3150** sets the threshold value D_{th} in the threshold value setting unit **3166**, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S3090** and the robot controller **3150** adjusts a zero point of each sensor **3122** in the zero point setting unit **3165**, similar to step **S3030**.

Then, in step **S3100**, the robot controller **3150** outputs a position instruction with respect to each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015**, which is calculated in the operation instructing unit **3151** on the basis of the instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) with respect to each of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** instructed through the input device, to each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015**, and starts the predetermined operation according to the position instruction in the arms **3103L** and **3103R** (refer to FIG. **28A**).

Then, the process proceeds to step **S3110** and the robot controller **3150** compares the output data of the input output value V of each sensor **3122** when the predetermine operation stated in step **S3100** is executed by the arms **3103L** and **3103R** and the normative waveform recorded in the normative data recording unit **3163** for each sensor **3122**, for each sensor **3122** in the determining unit **3164**, while inputting the output value V of each sensor **3122** based on the high frequency vibration component amplified by the amplifying unit **3123** and extracted by each high-pass filter **3161A**, and calculates the difference “D” for each sensor **3122**. By comparing the difference “D” calculated for each sensor **3122** and the threshold value D_{th} previously set by the threshold value setting unit **3166** for each sensor **3122**, it is determined whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. Specifically, as described above, when the difference “D” for all of the sensors **3122** is within the threshold value D_{th} , it is determined that the object does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. When the difference “D” for one of all of the sensors **3122** exceeds the threshold value D_{th} , it is determined that the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S3120** and the robot controller **3150** determines whether it is determined in step **S3110** that the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R** during the operation of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** until the operation completion position. When it is determined in step **S3110** that the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R** during the operation of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** until the operation completion position, the determination result of step **S3120** is satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S3130**.

In step **S3130**, the robot controller **3150** intercepts the output of the position instruction from the operation instructing unit **3151** to the smoothing processing unit **3153** in the

position instruction intercepting unit **3152**, adds the grip compensation torque to the torque instruction T_{ref} generated by the servo unit **3154**, outputs the resultant of the addition to each of the actuators **Ac3001** to **Ac3015** to stop the operation in the arms **3103L** and **3103R**, and grips the product **P** by the hands **3111L** and **3111R**. Then, the robot controller **3150** ends the process that is illustrated in the flow.

Meanwhile, in step **S3120**, when it is determined in step **S3110** that the object does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R** during the operation of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** until the operation completion position (when the product **P** to be the grip object does not exist), the determination result of step **S3120** is not satisfied, the process proceeds to step **S3140**, and the robot controller **3150** completes the operation in the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. The robot controller **3150** ends the process that is illustrated in the process.

In the above description, the sequence of steps **S3050** and **S3070** corresponds to a normative data recording sequence that is described in claims and the sequence of step **S3110** corresponds to a determining sequence. The sequence of steps **S3050**, **S3070**, and **S3110** functions as an output value acquiring sequence.

As described above, in the robot system **3001** according to this embodiment, in the normative data recording unit **3163**, the time history of the output value V of each sensor **3122** while the arms **3103L** and **3103R** execute the predetermined operation in a state in which the object does not contact the arms is recorded as the normative waveform. By comparing the output data of the output value V of each sensor **3122** when the arms **3103L** and **3103R** execute the predetermined operation at the time of activating and the normative waveform recorded in the normative data recording unit **3163** (comparing the different “ D ” and the threshold value D_{th} in the above example), the determining unit **3164** determines whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. As described above, the normative waveform is data of the time history of the output value V of the sensor **3122** actually recorded while the arms **3103L** and **3103R** are operated in a state in which the object does not contact. Therefore, the normative waveform corresponds to the internal force that is generated by the operation of the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. For this reason, by comparing the normative waveform and the output data of the output value V of the sensor **3122** at the time of activating, the external force that is applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** during the activation can be detected, and it can be determined with high precision whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. As a result, control for stopping the operation of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** on the basis of whether the object contacts the arms or operating the arms **3103L** and **3103R** in a direction where the external force based on the contact is reduced can be performed with high precision. Therefore, functionality of the robot **3100** can be improved.

In this embodiment, the force sensor that has a piezoelectric body that has a natural frequency higher than that of the structural material (metallic material such as iron or aluminum in the above example) forming each portion of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** is used as each sensor **3122**. In the above example, particularly, the sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body is used as each sensor. Thereby, the high frequency vibration or the impact that is generated in the structural material of each portion of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** due to collision of the obstacle can be detected, and it can be detected with high precision whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**.

In this embodiment that is applied to the product grip control, a next effect is obtained. That is, in order to grip an

object having an indefinite shape in the related art, a means for attaching a special sensor to the hands **3111L** and **3111R** of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** and detecting and confirming a grip state needs to be provided. Meanwhile, in this embodiment, a control operation is executed such that the two arms **3103L** and **3103R** are operated toward the inner side of both sides of the product **P**, the operation is stopped when the contact is detected, and the product **P** is gripped by the hands **3111L** and **3111R**. Therefore, the special sensor does not need to be provided, and product grip control based on the robot **3100** that has the hands **3111L** and **3111R** with the simple configuration and can securely grip the object having the indefinite shape can be realized.

In this embodiment, particularly, when the difference “ D ” of the output data and the normative waveform is within of the predetermined threshold value D_{th} , the determining unit **3164** determines whether the object does not contact the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. When the difference “ D ” exceeds the predetermined threshold value D_{th} , the determining unit **3164** determines whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. That is, since the difference “ D ” of the output data and the normative waveform corresponds to the external force applied to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** as described above, the determining unit **3164** can perform the determination based on the difference “ D ” and can detect with high precision whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. By setting the predetermined threshold value D_{th} as a determination value of a contact or a non-contact, erroneous detection based on disturbance can be suppressed.

In this embodiment, particularly, the robot controller **3150** has the threshold value setting unit **3166** that sets the threshold value D_{th} . Since the threshold value setting unit **3166** can set an arbitrary value as the threshold value D_{th} according to a specification or an activation environment of the robot **3100**, the robot controller **3150** can suppress the erroneous detection based on the disturbance and can detect with high precision whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**.

In this embodiment, particularly, the robot controller **3150** has the section setting unit **3162** that sets the recording section where the time history of the output value V of the sensor **3122** is recorded as the normative waveform by the normative data recording unit **3163**. By the section setting unit **3162**, a section where the arms **3103L** and **3103R** execute an arbitrary operation can be set as the recording section. Thereby, a section where the same operation as the predetermined operation executed by the arms **3103L** and **3103R** at the time of activating is executed can be set as the recording section. If the normative waveform is recorded, it can be securely detected whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. Since a normative waveform can be recorded for each different operation, a normative waveform can be recorded to correspond to each of various operations executed by the arms **3103L** and **3103R** at the time of activating.

In this embodiment, particularly, the robot controller **3150** has the zero point adjusting unit **3165** that adjusts a zero point of each sensor **3122**, whenever the arms **3103L** and **3103R** execute the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit **3162**. By the zero point adjusting unit **3165**, an influence of the temperature drift of each sensor **3122** can be suppressed and contact precision can be prevented from being lowered. In particular, when the arms **3103L** and **3103R** repeat the predetermined operation at the time of activating, zero point adjustment is performed for each operation. Therefore, the influence of the temperature drift can be securely suppressed.

In this embodiment, particularly, the robot controller **3150** has the high-pass filter unit **3161** that extracts the high fre-

quency vibration component of the output signal of each sensor **3122**, and the determining unit **3164** compares the output data of the output value *V* of each sensor based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit **3161** and the normative waveform and determines whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. Thereby, since the frequency component due to the disturbance can be removed, it can be detected with high precision whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**.

The third embodiment has been described. However, the embodiment may be implemented by various different embodiments other than the third embodiment. Therefore, the various different embodiments are hereinafter described as modifications.

(1) Case Where the Robot System is Applied to Detection of a Contact of an Obstacle

In the above embodiment, the robot system disclosed in the present application is applied to the product grip control. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the robot system disclosed in the present application may be applied to detection of a contact of the obstacle. That is, as illustrated in FIG. **31**, the determining unit **3164** determines whether the obstacle *B* contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R** using the same method as that of the above embodiment, when the arms **3103L** and **3103R** execute the predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **3150**, that is, the operation from the instructed operation start position (position illustrated at the left side of FIG. **31**) to the instructed operation completion position. If the contact of the obstacle with respect to the arms **3103L** and **3103R** is detected, the operation of the arms **3103L** and **3103R** is stopped at the corresponding position (position illustrated at the right side of FIG. **31**). Even in this modification, the same effect as that of the embodiment can be obtained. Further, it is possible to avoid an excessive load from acting on a robot **3100** or an object existing around the robot **3100**.

(2) Case Where a Low-Pass Filter is Provided

In the above embodiment, the high-pass filter unit **3161** that has the high-pass filter **3161A** to extract the high frequency vibration component of the sensor **3122** is provided in the contact detecting unit **3155**, the determining unit **3164** compares the normative waveform based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit **3161** and the output data, and determines whether the object contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto. That is, a low-pass filter unit that has a low-pass filter (or it may be a band-pass filter that uses a high frequency band as a pass-band) to extract a low frequency vibration component of the output signal of the sensor **3122** may be provided separately from the high-pass filter unit **3161**, in the contact detecting unit **3155**, the determining unit **3164** may compare the normative waveform based on the low frequency vibration component extracted by the low-pass filter unit and the output data, and may determine whether the object (product including flexibility such as a cardboard box in particular) contacts the arms **3103L** and **3103R**. According to this modification, since the low frequency vibration component can be extracted, generation or non-generation of a relative late contact, such as a contact of the product including the flexibility such as the cardboard box with respect to the arms **3103L** and **3103R**, can be detected with high precision.

Case Where the Robot System is Applied to a Single-Arm Robot

In the above description, this embodiment is applied to the robot **3100** to be the dual-arm robot that has the two arms

3103L and **3103R**. However, this embodiment may be applied to a single-arm robot that has one robot arm. Even in this case, the same effect as that of the above embodiment can be obtained.

In addition to the configuration described above, the configuration where the methods according to the embodiment and the modifications are appropriately combined may be used.

Although not specifically described, this embodiment can be variously changed in a range that does not depart from the spirit and scope of the embodiment.

Next, a fourth embodiment will be described.

In a field of robots, it is preferable to avoid an excessive load from being generated with respect to a robot or an object existing around the robot. For this reason, various technologies for detecting generation or non-generation of a contact (external force) with respect to the robot are studied.

For example, a technology for attaching a force detector to detect the external force to a base end of a robot arm and stopping an operation of the robot arm on the basis of the detection result of the force detector or operating the robot arm in a reduction direction of the external force when the excessive external force is disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (JP-A) No. 2006-21287.

In order to improve reliability of the robot, it is preferable to detect generation or non-generation of abnormality in the robot arm, such as abnormality based on aging of an actuator of the robot arm or a decelerator.

In the related art, a six-axial force sensor is used as the force detector. In general, the six-axial force sensor is configured using plural strain gauges and a natural frequency is low. For this reason, a high frequency abnormal vibration that is generated in the structural material of the robot arm due to the abnormality of the actuator or the decelerator may not be detected and the abnormality of the robot arm may not be detected. For this reason, reliability is low.

According to one aspect of the embodiment, a robot system that can detect whether the robot arm is abnormal and can improve reliability and a robot abnormality detecting method are provided.

According to this embodiment, since it can be detected whether there is abnormality in the robot arm, the reliability of the robot can be improved.

The fourth embodiment will be described with reference to the drawings.

FIG. **32** is a conceptual diagram illustrating the entire configuration of the robot system according to the fourth embodiment. FIG. **33** is a top view illustrating the configuration of the robot according to the fourth embodiment.

In FIGS. **32** and **33**, a robot system **4001** according to this embodiment includes a robot **4100** that is provided on one side of a belt conveyor **4002** to convey plural products *P* and a robot controller **4150** (control unit) that controls the robot **4100**. The robot **4100** is a dual-arm robot and includes a base **4101**, a trunk portion **4102**, two arms **4103L** and **4103R** (robot arms), and two sensor units **4120L** and **4120R**.

The base **4101** is fixed to a mounting surface (floor) by an anchor bolt (not illustrated in the drawings). The trunk portion **4102** has a joint portion in which an actuator **Ac4001** driven to rotate about a rotation axis **Ax4001** is provided. The trunk portion **4102** is disposed to rotate with respect to the base **4101** through the first joint portion and rotates in a direction approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator **Ac4001** provided in the first joint portion. The trunk portion **4102** supports the arms **4103L** and **4103R** that are configured as separate objects, at one side

(right side in FIGS. 32 and 33) and the other side (left side in FIGS. 32 and 33), respectively.

The arm 4103L is a manipulator that is provided on one side of the trunk portion 4102. The arm 4103L has a shoulder portion 4104L, an upper arm A portion 4105L, an upper arm B portion 4106L, a lower arm portion 4107L, a wrist A portion 4108L, a wrist B portion 4109L, a flange 4110L, a hand 4111L, and second to eighth joint portions in which actuators Ac4002 to Ac4008 to drive rotation of the individual portions are provided, respectively.

The shoulder portion 4104L is connected to the trunk portion 4102 to rotate through the second joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4002 approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac4002 provided in the second joint portion. The upper arm A portion 4105L is connected to the shoulder portion 4104L to rotate through the third joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4003 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4002 by driving of the actuator Ac4003 provided in the third joint portion. The upper arm B portion 4106L is connected to a front end of the upper arm A portion 4105L shoulder portion 4104L to rotate through the fourth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4004 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4003 by driving of the actuator Ac4004 provided in the fourth joint portion. The lower arm portion 4107L is connected to the upper arm B portion 4106L to rotate through the fifth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4005 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4004 by driving of the actuator Ac4005 provided in the fifth joint portion. The wrist A portion 4108L is connected to a front end of the lower arm portion 4107L to rotate through the sixth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4006 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4005 by driving of the actuator Ac4006 provided in the sixth joint portion. The wrist B portion 4109L is connected to the wrist A portion 4108L to rotate through the seventh joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4007 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4006 by driving of the actuator Ac4007 provided in the seventh joint portion. The flange 4110L is connected to a front end of the wrist B portion 4109L to rotate through the eighth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4008 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4007 by driving of the actuator Ac4008 provided in the eighth joint portion. The hand 4111L is attached to a front end of the flange 4110L and rotates according to the rotation of the flange 4110L.

The arm 4103R is a manipulator that is provided on the other side of the trunk portion 4102. Similar to the arm 4103L, the arm 4103R has a shoulder portion 4104R, an upper arm A portion 4105R, an upper arm B portion 4106R, a lower arm portion 4107R, a wrist A portion 4108R, a wrist B portion 4109R, a flange 4110R, a hand 4107R, and ninth to fifteenth joint portions in which actuators Ac4009 to Ac4015 to drive rotation of the individual portions are provided, respectively.

The shoulder portion 4104R is connected to the trunk portion 4102 to rotate through the ninth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4009 approximately horizontal to the mounting surface by driving of the actuator Ac4009 provided in the ninth joint portion. The upper arm A portion 4105R is connected to the shoulder portion 4104R to rotate through the tenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4010 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4009 by driving of the actuator Ac4010 provided in the tenth joint portion. The upper arm B portion 4106R is connected to a front end of the upper arm A portion 4105R to rotate through the eleventh joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4011 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4010 by driving of the actuator Ac4011 provided in the eleventh joint portion. The

lower arm portion 4107R is connected to the upper arm B portion 4106R to rotate through the twelfth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4012 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4011 by driving of the actuator Ac4012 provided in the twelfth joint portion. The wrist A portion 4108R is connected to a front end of the lower arm portion 4107R to rotate through the thirteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4013 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4012 by driving of the actuator Ac4013 provided in the thirteenth joint portion. The wrist B portion 4109R is connected to the wrist A portion 4108R to rotate through the fourteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4014 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4013 by driving of the actuator Ac4014 provided in the fourteenth joint portion. The flange 4110R is connected to a front end of the wrist B portion 4109R to rotate through the fifteenth joint portion and rotates around a rotation axis Ax4015 orthogonal to the rotation axis Ax4014 by driving of the actuator Ac4015 provided in the fifteenth joint portion. The hand 4111R is attached to a front end of the flange 4110R and rotates according to the rotation of the flange 4110R.

In this example, each of the arms 4103L and 4103R has seven joint portions, that is, a freedom degree of 7. However, the freedom degree of each of the arms 4103L and 4103R is not limited to "7."

As structural materials that form the shoulder portions 4104L and 4104R, the upper arm A portion 4105L and 4105R, the upper arm B portions 4106L and 4106R, the lower arm portions 4107L and 4107R, the wrist A portions 4108L and 4108R, the wrist B portions 4109L and 4109R, the flanges 4110L and 4110R, and the hands 4111L and 4111R of the arms 4103L and 4103R, metallic materials such as iron or aluminum are used.

As illustrated in FIG. 33, the trunk portion 4102 is formed to protrude forward in a horizontal direction from the first joint portion to the second and ninth joint portions, with respect to the base 4101, such that the rotation axis Ax4001 of the first joint portion and the rotation axes Ax4002 and Ax4009 of the second and ninth joint portions are offset by the length D1 in a direction approximately horizontal to the mounting surface. Thereby, a space of the lower side of the shoulder portions 4104L and 4104R can be used as a work space, and a reachable range of the arms 4103L and 4103R can be enlarged by rotating the rotation axis Ax4001.

A shape of the upper arm B portion 4106R is set such that the positions of the rotation axis Ax4011 of the eleventh joint portion and the rotation axis Ax4012 of the twelfth joint portion in plan view are offset by the length D2. A shape of the lower arm portion 4107R is set such that the positions of the rotation axis Ax4012 of the twelfth joint portion and the rotation axis Ax4013 of the thirteenth joint portion in plan view are offset by the length D3. When the rotation axis Ax4011 and the rotation axis Ax4013 takes an approximately horizontal posture, the offset length of the rotation axis Ax4011 and the rotation axis Ax4013 becomes (D2+D3). Thereby, when the twelfth joint portion corresponding to a human "elbow" is bent, clearance of the upper arm A portion 4105R and the upper arm B portion 4106R corresponding to a human "upper arm" and the lower arm portion 4107R corresponding to a human "lower arm" can be greatly secured. Even when the hand 4111R comes close to the trunk portion 4102, a degree of freedom of the arm 4103R at the time of an operation increases.

Although not clearly illustrated in FIG. 33, similar to the arm 4103R, in the arm 4103L, a shape of the upper arm B portion 4106L is set such that the positions of the rotation axis Ax4004 of the fourth joint portion and the rotation axis

Ax4005 of the fifth joint portion in upper view are offset by the length D2. A shape of the lower arm portion 4107L is set such that the positions of the rotation axis Ax4005 of the fifth joint portion and the rotation axis Ax4006 of the sixth joint portion in upper view are offset by the length D3. When the rotation axis Ax4004 and the rotation axis Ax4006 takes an approximately horizontal posture, the offset length of the rotation axis Ax4004 and the rotation axis Ax4006 becomes (D2+D3).

As illustrated in FIG. 33, each of the sensor units 4120L and 4120R includes a disk-shaped sensor fixing jig 4121 and at least one (in this example, three) sensor 4122 (strain sensors) that have an approximately rectangular solid shape. The sensor fixing jig 4121 of the sensor unit 4120L is attached to a base of a stator of the actuator Ac4002 of the arm 4103L that is positioned to be closest to the base side, and the three sensors 4122 that are provided in the sensor fixing jig 4121 can detect the force applied the arm 4103L (in detail, amount of strain caused by a vibration due to the impact force applied to the arm 4103L, not the magnitude of the force). The sensor fixing jig 4121 of the sensor unit 4120R is attached to a base of a stator of the actuator Ac4009 of the arm 4103R that is positioned to be closest to the base side, and the three sensors 4122 that are provided in the sensor fixing jig 4121 can detect the force applied the arm 4103L (in detail, amount of strain caused by a vibration due to the impact force applied to the arm 4103R, not the magnitude of the force). The sensor units 4120L and 4120R will be described in detail below.

In the robot 4100 that has the above-described configuration, operations of individual driving portions that include the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015 are controlled by the robot controller 4150, such that the arms 4103L and 4103R are operated toward the inner side than both sides of the product P on the belt conveyor 4002 and the product P is gripped by the hands 4111L and 4111R. Each of the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015 is composed of a decelerator-integrated servo motor that has a hollow portion where a wiring line (not illustrated in the drawings) can be inserted, and the rotation positions of the actuators Ac1001 to Ac1015 are converted into signals from encoders incorporated in the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4005 and the signals are input to the robot controller 4150 through the wiring line.

FIG. 34 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of the robot controller 4150 according to the fourth embodiment.

In FIG. 34, the robot controller 4150 is composed of a computer (not illustrated in the drawings) that includes an operator, a storage device, and an input device and is connected to the individual driving portions of the robot 4100 or the individual sensors 4122 through the wiring line to communicate with each other. The robot controller 4150 has an operation instructing unit 4151, a position instruction intercepting unit 4152, a smoothing processing unit 4153, a servo unit 4154, an abnormality detecting unit 4155, a grip torque compensating unit 4156, and a gravity torque compensating unit 4157.

The operation instructing unit 4151 calculates a position instruction (operation instruction) with respect to each of the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015, on the basis of instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) with respect to each of the arms 4103L and 4103R instructed through the input device, and pools the position instruction to the smoothing processing unit 4153 through the position instruction intercepting unit 4152.

The smoothing processing unit 4153 sequentially outputs the pooled position instruction to the servo unit 4154, for every predetermined operation cycle.

The servo unit 4154 has a joint angle feedback circuit Fp based on a detection value of the encoder of each of the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015 and a joint angle feedback circuit Fv based on an angular speed detection value obtained from the detection value of the encoder of each of the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015, for each of the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015. The servo unit 4154 generates and outputs a torque instruction Tref with each of the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015 for every predetermined operation cycle, on the basis of the position instructions sequentially input by the smoothing processing unit 4153.

The abnormality detecting unit 4155 detects generation or non-generation of abnormality based on aging of a rotation member such as the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015 provided in the arms 4103L and 4103R and the decelerator, on the basis of an output value V (output signal of each sensor 4122 of the sensor units 4120L and 4120R). However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the abnormality detecting unit 4155 may detect generation or non-generation of the abnormality (including abnormality occurring with aging of the rotating member such as the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015 or the decelerator, or abnormality of the casings of the arms 4103L and 4103R) of the arms 4103L and 4103R. The abnormality detecting unit 4155 will be described in detail below.

When the abnormality of the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015 of the arms 4103L and 4103R is detected by the abnormality detecting unit 4155, the position instruction intercepting unit 4152 intercepts an output from the operation instructing unit 4151 to the smoothing processing unit 4153 and intercepts the position instruction that is transmitted to the servo unit 4154. If the position instruction transmitted to the servo unit 4154 is intercepted, a value of the torque instruction Tref that is output by the feedback decreases and the arms 4103L and 4103R are quickly stopped.

The grip torque compensating unit 4156 adds grip compensation torque to grip the product P by the arms 4103L and 4103R to the torque instruction Tref with respect to each of the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015 generated by the servo unit 4154.

The gravity torque compensating unit 4157 adds gravity compensation torque corresponding to the self weight to grip the product P by the arms 4103L and 4103R to the torque instruction Tref with respect to each of the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015 generated by the servo unit 4154.

FIG. 35 is a block diagram illustrating the functional configuration of the abnormality detecting unit 4155 according to the fourth embodiment.

In FIG. 35, the abnormality detecting unit 4155 has a high-pass filter unit 4161, a section setting unit 4162, a normative waveform recording unit 4163, an output waveform recording unit 4167, a comparing/determining unit 4164, a zero point adjusting unit 4165, and a threshold value setting unit 4166.

The high-pass filter unit 4161 extracts a high frequency vibration component of an output signal of each sensor 4122 to remove a frequency component (for example, frequency component due to disturbance) other than a frequency due to the abnormality of the arms 4103L and 4103R, which is included in the output signal of each sensor 4122 of the sensor units 4120L and 4120R. The high-pass filter unit 4161 will be described in detail below.

The section setting unit 4162 sets a section in which the normative waveform recording unit 4163 records a time history of the output value V of the sensor 4122 as the normative

waveform, on the basis of input information input by the input device (hereinafter, simply referred to as “recording section”).

The normative waveform recording unit **4163** records the time history of the output value *V* of each sensor **4122** based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit **4161** while the arms **4103L** and **4103R** execute a predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit **4162** in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **4103L** and **4103R** as a normative waveform (refer to FIG. 37B to be described below) for each sensor **4122**. In this case, the state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **4103L** and **4103R** means a state in which there is no structural or functional defect and failure in the casings (including the structure member, the cover member, and the wiring line) of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** and the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** provided in the arms **4103L** and **4103R** or the decelerator and the arms and the casing and the actuators or the decelerator are normally operated, and a contact or interference not to be intended is not generated in the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. For example, the state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **4103L** and **4103R** means a state immediately after it is checked that the casings of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** and the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** provided in the arms **4103L** and **4103R** or the decelerator are normally operated or a state at the time of initial activating in which there is no initial defect. The predetermined operation is an operation according to the position instruction that is calculated by the operation instructing unit **4151** on the basis of the instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) instructed through the input device.

The output waveform recording unit **4167** records the time history of the output value *V* of each sensor **4122** based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit **4161** while the arms **4103L** and **4103R** execute the predetermined operation at the time of activating as an output waveform (refer to FIG. 38B to be described below) for each sensor **4122**. In this embodiment, the output waveform recording unit **4167** records the time history of the output value *V* of each sensor **4122** while the arms **4103L** and **4103R** execute the predetermined operation at the time of activating as an output waveform for each sensor **4122**, when the product *P* to be a grip object does not exist in a movable range at the time of activating (for example, immediately after starting conveyance of the product *P* or at the time of stopping the conveyance and performing checking). However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the output waveform recording unit **4167** may record the time history of the output value *V* of each sensor **4122** while the arms **4103L** and **4103R** execute the predetermined operation at the time of activating in the case where the product *P* to be a grip object exists in a movable range at the time of activating as an output waveform for each sensor **4122**.

The threshold value setting unit **4166** sets a threshold value *Dth* that becomes a determination value of generation or non-generation of the abnormality in the comparing/determining unit **4164**, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

The comparing/determining unit **4164** compares the normative waveform recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **4163** for each sensor **4122** and the output waveform recorded in the output waveform recording unit **4167** for each sensor **4122**, for each sensor **4122**, and calculates the difference (in detail, absolute value of the difference) “*D*” of the normative waveform and the output waveform, for

each sensor **4122**. The number of times (hereinafter, referred to as number of times of excess *N*) of the difference “*D*” calculated for each sensor **4122** exceeding a threshold value *Dth* previously set by the threshold value setting unit **4166** for a constant time (in this example, time needed when the arms **4103L** and **4103R** executes the predetermined operation once) is calculated for each sensor **4122**. The constant time is not limited to the time needed when the arms **4103L** and **4103R** executes the predetermined operation once. For example, the constant time may be time that is set through the input device. By determining whether the number of times of excess *N* counted for each sensor **4122** exceeds the predetermined number of times of determination *Nj* for each sensor **4122**, the comparing/determining unit **4164** determines whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. The comparing/determining unit **4164** will be described in detail below.

The zero point adjusting unit **4165** outputs a reset signal to each sensor **4122** and adjusts a zero point of each sensor **4122**, whenever the arms **4103L** and **4103R** execute the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit **4162**, to suppress the change in the ambient temperature due to heat generation of the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** or an influence of the temperature drift of each sensor **4122** generated by self heat generation.

FIG. 36 a diagram illustrating the detailed configuration of the sensor units **4120L** and **4120R**, the high-pass filter unit **4161**, and the comparing/determining unit **4164** according to the fourth embodiment. In FIG. 36, the normative waveform recording unit **4163** and the output waveform recording unit **4167** are not illustrated.

In FIG. 36, as described above, each of the sensor units **4120L** and **4120R** includes the sensor fixing jig **4121** that is provided on the inner side of the casing of the trunk portion **4102** and is formed in an annular shape and the three sensors **4122** that are provided in the sensor fixing jig **4121** and have an approximately rectangular solid shape. The sensor fixing jig **4121** of each of the sensor units **4120L** and **4120R** has an opening **4121A** where the wiring line of the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** provided in the arms **4103L** and **4103R** can be inserted, at the approximately central portion. The three sensors **4122** of the sensor unit **4120L** are disposed on an inner surface of the sensor fixing jig **4121**, that is, a surface (left surface in FIG. 33 and surface in front of a plane of paper in FIG. 36) not attached to the base of the stator of the actuator **Ac4002**, such that the three sensors **4122** are disposed at an equal interval on the same circumference and are radially disposed. The three sensors **4122** of the sensor unit **4120R** are disposed on the inner surface of the sensor fixing jig **4121**, that is, a surface (right surface in FIG. 33 and surface in front of a plane of paper in FIG. 36) not attached to the base of the stator of the actuator **Ac4009**, such that the three sensors **4122** are disposed at an equal interval on the same circumference and are radially disposed.

In this embodiment, a force sensor that has a piezoelectric body made of a material having a natural frequency (rigidity) higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**, in this example, a sensor where quartz is used as the piezoelectric body is used as each sensor **4122**. This is because that the change force including a high frequency component can be detected when a natural frequency is high and the quartz has a natural frequency (or rigidity) higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. Therefore, a minute high frequency vibration (fast deformation and dynamic

strain) that is transmitted to the structural material of each portion of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** can be detected.

Each sensor **4122** is not limited to the sensor where the quartz is used as the piezoelectric body and may be a force sensor that has a piezoelectric body made of a material having a natural frequency higher than that of the metallic material to be the structural material forming each portion of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. Each sensor **4122** of the sensor unit **4120L** detects the amount of strain of a radial direction of the sensor fixing jig **4121** due to the force applied to the arm **4103L** as a voltage and each sensor **4122** of the sensor unit **4120R** detects the amount of strain of a radial direction of the sensor fixing jig **4121** due to the force applied to the arm **4103R** as a voltage. The voltage that is obtained by each sensor **4122** is amplified by an amplifying unit **4123** and is input to each high-pass filter **4161A** (to be described below) of the high-pass filter unit **4161**.

The high-pass filter unit **4161** has plural high-pass filters **4161A** (or band-pass filters using a high frequency band as a pass-band) that can extract a high frequency vibration component of the sensor **4122**, and the high frequency component of the output signal of each sensor **4122** that is amplified by the amplifying unit **4123** is extracted by each high-pass filter **4161A**. In each high-pass filter **4161A**, a cut-off frequency is determined such that a frequency component other than a frequency due to abnormality of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** (frequency component due to an event other than a contact such as an operation of the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015**) can be removed.

By determining whether the number of times of excess N counted for each sensor **4122** exceeds the predetermined number of times of determination N_j for each sensor **4122** described above, the comparing/determining unit **4164** determines whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. Specifically, when the number of times of excess N for all of the sensors **4122** is within the predetermined number of times of determination N_j , the comparing/determining unit **4164** determines that there is no abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. When the number of times of excess N for only one sensor **4122** among all of the sensors **4122** exceeds the predetermined number of times of determination N_j , the comparing/determining unit **4164** determines that there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. The determination on whether the number of times of excess N exceeds the predetermined number of times of determination N_j substantially corresponds to the determination on whether an event where the difference "D" exceeds the threshold value D_{th} occurs for every predetermined cycle. That is, the case in which the number of occurrences of an event of excess N exceeds the number of times of determination N_j corresponds to the case in which the event where the difference "D" exceeds the threshold value D_{th} occurs for every predetermined cycle.

The comparing/determining unit **4164** executes the above determination while changing the number of times of determination N_j according to the operation speed of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. That is, in the case where abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac 4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** or the decelerator and a cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is generated at the time of the operation of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**, when the operation speed of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** is fast, the number of times of generating the cyclic abnormal vibration increases, and when the operation speed of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** is slow, the number of times of generating the cyclic abnormal vibration decreases. For this

reason, when the number of times of determination N_j is set to a constant value, erroneous detection of the abnormality is caused depending on the operation speed. Therefore, in this embodiment, the comparing/determining unit **4164** executes the above determination while changing the number of times of determination N_j according to the operation speed of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** and prevents the erroneous detection.

FIGS. **37A** and **37B** are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **4103L** and **4103R** according to the fourth embodiment in a state in which there is no abnormality and an output value V of the sensor **4122** during the predetermined operation.

FIG. **37A** schematically illustrates an example of the predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **4103L** and **4103R** in a state in which there is no abnormality. In the example illustrated in FIG. **37A**, in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **4103L** and **4103R** at the time of instructing and in an environment in which the product P to be the grip object does not exist and there is no obstacle around in the robot **4100** (within the movable range of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**), that is, in a state in which an object does not contact the arms **4103L** and **4103R**, a predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **4150**, that is, an operation from the instructed operation start position (position illustrated at the left side of FIG. **37A**) to the instructed operation completion position (position illustrated at the right side of FIG. **37A**) is executed. The operation completion position is set to the position where the hands **4111L** and **4111R** can grip a minimum portion of the product P conveyed by the belt conveyor **4002**.

FIG. **37B** illustrates an example of the normative waveform that is recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **4163** to correspond to the operation illustrated in FIG. **37A**, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor **4122**. In the example illustrated in FIG. **37B**, in the normative waveform recording unit **4163**, the time history of the output value V of the sensor **4122** while the operation corresponding to the recording section described above and illustrated in FIG. **37A** is executed once in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **4103L** and **4103R** is recorded as the normative waveform. The normative waveform can always be recorded, when there is no abnormality in the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. In this embodiment, an example of the case where the normative waveform is recorded at the time of instructing the predetermined operation with respect to the robot **4100** will be described.

FIGS. **38A** and **38B** are diagrams illustrating a predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **4103L** and **4103R** according to the first embodiment at the time of activating and an output value V of the sensor **4122** during the predetermined operation.

FIG. **38A** schematically illustrates an example of the predetermined operation that is executed by the arms **4103L** and **4103R** according to the fourth embodiment at the time of activating. In the example illustrated in FIG. **38A**, when the product P to be a grip object does not exist in a movable range at the time of activating (for example, immediately after starting conveyance of the product P or at the time of stopping the conveyance and performing checking), in a state in which abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac 4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** or the decelerator, a predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller **4150**, that is, an operation from the instructed operation start position (position illustrated at the left side of FIG. **38A**) to the instructed operation completion position (posi-

tion illustrated at the right side of FIG. 38A) is executed. In the example that is illustrated in FIG. 38A, the case where the arms 4103L and 4103R perform the predetermined operation when the product P to be the grip object does not exist in the movable range as described above is illustrated. Therefore, similar to the case of FIG. 37A, the operation from the operation start position to the operation completion position is executed without gripping the product P by the hands 4111L and 4111R. Although not illustrated in the drawings, when the product P to be the grip object exists, the arms 4103L and 4103R is operated from the operation start position to the inner side more than both sides of the product P on the belt conveyor 4002. If the product P contacts the arms 4103L and 4103R, the arms 4103L and 4103R stop the operation at the corresponding position such that the product P is gripped by the hands 4111L and 4111R.

FIG. 38B illustrates an example of the normative waveform that is recorded in the output waveform recording unit 4167 to correspond to the operation illustrated in FIG. 38A, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor 4122. In the example illustrated in FIG. 38B, in the output waveform recording unit 4167, the time history of the output value V of the sensor 4122 while the arms 4103L and 4103R execute the operation illustrated in FIG. 38A once in a state in which abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015 or the decelerator is recorded as an output waveform. As in this case, when abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015 of the arms 4103L and 4103R or the decelerator is recorded as an output waveform, an abnormal place cyclically appears in a rotation phase. For this reason, when the arms 4103L and 4103R are operated, a cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is easily generated. In general, when the cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is generated in the arms 4103L and 4103R, the impact force due to the cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is transmitted to the arms 4103L and 4103R, and the output value V of the sensor 4122 increases as compared with the case where the cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is not generated. Therefore, when abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015 or the decelerator is recorded as an output waveform, a section where the output value V of the sensor 4122 increases cyclically exists in the output waveform. In the output waveform that is illustrated in FIG. 38B, sections of four places where the output value V of the sensor 4122 increases cyclically exist.

FIGS. 39A and 39B are diagrams illustrating an example of a method of detecting whether there is abnormality in the arms 4103L and 4103R. FIG. 39A illustrates the normative waveform corresponding to FIG. 37B and the output waveform corresponding to FIG. 38B, in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates an output value V of the sensor 4122. FIG. 39B illustrates a waveform of a time-series change of the difference "D", in which a horizontal axis indicates time t and a vertical axis indicates the difference "D".

In FIGS. 39A and 39B, as described above, when there is abnormality in the arms 4103L and 4103R, a section where the output value V of the sensor 4122 increases cyclically exists in the output waveform. Therefore, by comparing the two waveforms of the normative waveform at the time of instructing recorded in the normative waveform recording unit 4163 and the output waveform at the time of activating recorded in the output waveform recording unit 4167 in a state where there is no abnormality in the arms 4103L and 4103R, the cyclic change of the output waveform with respect to the

normative waveform can be detected. Therefore, it can be detected whether there is abnormality in the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015 of the arms 4103L and 4103R. That is, by determining whether the number of times of excess N where the difference "D" of the normative waveform and the output waveform exceeding the threshold value D_{th} when the arms 4103L and 4103R execute the predetermined operation once exceeds the number of times of determination N_j according to the operation speed of the arms 4103L and 4103R, it can be determined whether there is abnormality in the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015. Specifically, when the number of times of excess N is within the number of times of determination N_j , it can be determined that there is no abnormality in the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015. When the number of times of excess N exceeds the number of times of determination N_j , it can be determined that there is abnormality in the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015. In the examples that are illustrated in FIGS. 39A and 39B, the number of times of excess N is "4" as described above. Therefore, when the number of times of determination N_j is "3" or less, it is determined that there is abnormality in the actuators Ac4002 to Ac4015.

FIG. 40 is a flowchart illustrating a control sequence based on a robot abnormality detecting method that is executed by the robot controller 4150 according to the fourth embodiment.

In FIG. 40, a process that is illustrated in a flow is started when a predetermined operation start manipulation is executed through the input device. First, in step S4010, the robot controller 4150 determines whether an operation mode of the robot 4100 is an "instruction mode" to perform instructing or an "activation mode" to perform activating, on the basis of input information input through the input device. When the operation mode of the robot 4100 is the "instruction mode", the determination result of step S4010 is satisfied and the process proceeds to step S4020.

In step S4020, the robot controller 4150 sets the recording section in the section setting unit 4162, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

Then, in step S4030, the robot controller 4150 outputs the reset signal to each sensor 4122 and adjusts a zero point of each sensor 4122, in the zero point adjusting unit 4165.

Then, the process proceeds to step S4040 and the robot controller 4150 outputs a position instruction with respect to each of the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015, which is calculated in the operation instructing unit 4151 on the basis of the instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) with respect to each of the arms 4103L and 4103R instructed through the input device, to each of the actuators Ac4001 to Ac4015, and starts the predetermined operation (refer to FIG. 37A) according to the position instruction in the arms 4103L and 4103R, in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms 4103L and 4103R and an object does not contact the arms 4103L and 4103R.

Then, in step S4050, the robot controller 4150 starts recording of the normative waveform for each sensor 4122, in the normative waveform recording unit 4163. Therefore, while the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set in step S4020 and started in step S4040 is executed in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms 4103L and 4103R and an object does not contact the arms 4103L and 4103R, the normative waveform recording unit 4163 records the time history of the output value V of each sensor 4122 which is based on the high frequency vibration component amplified by the amplifying unit 4123 and extracted by each high-pass filter 4161A as the normative waveform for each sensor 4122.

61

If the arms **4103L** and **4103R** are operated until the operation completion position, the process proceeds to step **S4060** and the robot controller **4150** completes the operations of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**.

Then, in step **S4070**, the robot controller **4150** completes recording of the normative waveform for each sensor **4122**, in the normative waveform recording unit **4163**. The robot controller **4150** ends the process that is illustrated in the flow. The process that is illustrated in the flow is executed by the robot controller **4150**, whenever the predetermined operation start manipulation is executed through the input device.

Meanwhile, in step **S4010**, when the operation mode of the robot **4100** is the “activation mode”, the determination result of step **S4010** is not satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S4080**.

In step **S4080**, the robot controller **4150** sets the threshold value **Dth** in the threshold value setting unit **4166**, on the basis of the input information input through the input device.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S4090** and the robot controller **4150** adjusts a zero point of each sensor **4122** in the zero point setting unit **4165**, similar to step **S4030**.

Then, in step **S4100**, the robot controller **4150** outputs a position instruction with respect to each of the actuators **Ac4001** to **Ac4015**, which is calculated in the operation instructing unit **4151** on the basis of the instruction information (information indicating the operation start position and the operation completion position) with respect to each of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** instructed through the input device, to each of the actuators **Ac4001** to **Ac4015**, and starts the predetermined operation (refer to FIG. **38A**) according to the position instruction in the arms **4103L** and **4103R**, when the product **P** to be the grip object does not exist within the movable range of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S4110** and the robot controller **4150** starts recording of the output waveform for each sensor **4122**, in the output waveform recording unit **4167**. Therefore, while the predetermined operation started in step **S4040** is executed by the arms **4103L** and **4103R** when the product **P** to be the grip object does not exist within the movable range of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**, the output waveform recording unit **4167** records the time history of the output value **V** of each sensor **4122** based on the high frequency vibration component amplified by the amplifying unit **4123** and extracted by each high-pass filter **4161A** as the output waveform for each sensor **4122**.

Then, if the arms **4103L** and **4103R** are operated until the operation completion position, the process proceeds to step **S4120** and the robot controller **4150** completes the operations of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S4130** and the robot controller **4150** completes recording of the output waveform for each sensor **4122**, in the output waveform recording unit **4167**.

Then, in step **S4140**, the robot controller **4150** compares the two waveforms of the normative waveform recorded in the normative waveform recording unit **4163** and the output waveform in the output waveform recording unit **4167** for each sensor **4122**, for each sensor **4122** in the comparing/determining unit **4164**, and calculates the difference “**D**” for each sensor **4122**. The robot controller **4150** counts the number of times of excess **N** where the difference “**D**” calculated for each sensor **4122** exceeds the threshold value **Dth** set in step **S4080** when the arms **4103L** and **4103R** executes the predetermined operation started in step **S4100** and completed in step **S4120** once, for each sensor **4122**. By determining whether the number of times of excess **N** counted for each sensor **4122** exceeds the number of times of determination **Nj**

62

set according to the operation speed of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** for each sensor **4122**, it is determined whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. Specifically, when the number of times of excess **N** for all of the sensors **4122** is within the predetermined number of times of determination **Nj**, it is determined that there is no abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. When the number of times of excess **N** for only one sensor **4122** among all of the sensors **4122** exceeds the predetermined number of times of determination **Nj**, it is determined that there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**.

Then, the process proceeds to step **S4150** and the robot controller **4150** determines whether it is determined in step **S4140** that there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015**. When it is determined that there is no abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015**, the determination result of step **S4150** is not satisfied and the process that is illustrated in the flow ends. Meanwhile, when it is determined that there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015**, the determination result of step **S4150** is satisfied and the process proceeds to step **S4160**.

In step **S4160**, the robot controller **4150** intercepts the output of the position instruction from the operation instructing unit **4151** to the smoothing processing unit **4153** in the position instruction intercepting unit **4152**, outputs the torque instruction **Tref** generated by the servo unit **4154** to each of the actuators **Ac4001** to **Ac4015**, stops the operation instructed to the arms **4103L** and **4103R**, and notifies an external device of the abnormality of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** in a notifying unit (not illustrated in the drawings).

In the above description, the sequence of steps **S4050** and **S4070** corresponds to a normative data recording sequence that is described in claims, the sequence of steps **S4110** and **S4130** corresponds to an output data recording sequence, and the sequence of step **S4140** corresponds to a comparing/determining sequence.

As described above, in the robot system **4001** according to this embodiment, in the normative data recording unit **4163**, the time history of the output value **V** of each sensor **4122** while the arms **4103L** and **4103R** execute the predetermined operation in a state in which the object does not contact the arms is recorded as the normative waveform. In the output data recording unit **4167**, the time history of the output value **V** of each sensor **4122** while the arms **4103L** and **4103R** execute the predetermined operation at the time of activating is recorded as the output waveform. By comparing the normative waveform recorded in the normative data recording unit **4163** and the output waveform recorded in the output data recording unit **4167** (determining whether the number of times of excess **N** exceeding the number of times of determination **Nj**), the determining unit **4164** determines whether there is abnormality in the arms **4103L** and **4103R** (in the above example, abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** provided in the arms **4103L** and **4103R**).

In this case, when abnormality based on aging is generated in the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** or the decelerator is recorded as an output waveform, an abnormal place cyclically appears in a rotation phase. For this reason, when the arms **4103L** and **4103R** are operated, a cyclic abnormal vibration or impact is easily generated. The abnormal vibration or the impact can be detected using the sensor **4122** having the high natural frequency. Therefore, in this embodiment, since the cyclic change of the output waveform with respect to the normative waveform can be detected by comparing the two waveforms of the normative waveform

in a state in which there is no abnormality in the arms **4103L** and **4103R** and the output waveform at the time of activating, it can be detected whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. Therefore, reliability of the robot system **4001** can be improved. As a result, the operation of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** can be stopped on the basis of generation or non-generation of the abnormality or the abnormality can be notified to the outside to quickly perform maintenance work.

In this embodiment, particularly, when the number of times of excess N where the difference “ D ” of the output waveform and the normative waveform of each sensor **4122** exceeds the predetermined threshold value D_{th} when the arms **4103L** and **4103R** execute the predetermined operation once exceeds the predetermined number of times of determination N_j , the comparing/determining unit **4164** determines that there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015**. Thereby, since the cyclic change of the output waveform with respect to the normative waveform can be securely detected, it can be detected with high precision whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015**. By setting the predetermined threshold value D_{th} as a determination value of generation or non-generation of the abnormality, erroneous detection based on disturbance can be suppressed.

In this embodiment, particularly, the comparing/determining unit **4164** perform the above determination while changing the number of times of determination N_j according to the operation speed of the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. Thereby, the erroneous detection can be prevented from being generated due to the change in the operation speed, and it can be detected with high precision whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015**.

In this embodiment, particularly, the robot controller **4150** has the threshold value setting unit **4166** that sets the threshold value D_{th} . Since the threshold value setting unit **4166** can set an arbitrary value as the threshold value D_{th} according to a specification or an activation environment of the robot **4100**, the robot controller **4150** can suppress the erroneous detection based on the disturbance and can detect whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** with high precision.

In this embodiment, particularly, the robot controller **4150** has the section setting unit **4162** that sets the recording section where the time history of the output value V of each sensor **4122** is recorded as the normative waveform by the normative data recording unit **4163**. By the section setting unit **4162**, a section where the arms **4103L** and **4103R** execute an arbitrary operation can be set as the recording section. In this way, if the section where the same operation as the predetermined operation executed by the arms **4103L** and **4103R** is executed or set as the recording section, and the normative waveform is recorded, it is possible to detect whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** at the time of activating. Since a normative waveform can be recorded for each different operation, a normative waveform can be recorded to correspond to each of various operations executed by the arms **4103L** and **4103R** at the time of activating.

In this embodiment, particularly, the robot controller **4150** has the zero point adjusting unit **4165** that adjusts a zero point of each sensor **4122**, whenever the arms **4103L** and **4103R** execute the predetermined operation corresponding to the recording section set by the section setting unit **4162**. By the zero point adjusting unit **4165**, an influence of the temperature drift of each sensor **4122** can be suppressed and abnormality detection precision can be prevented from being lowered. In particular, when the arms **4103L** and **4103R** repeat the predetermined operation at the time of activating, zero

point adjustment is performed for each operation. Therefore, the influence of the temperature drift can be securely suppressed.

In this embodiment, particularly, the force sensor that has a piezoelectric body that has a natural frequency higher than that of the structural material (metallic material such as iron or aluminum in the above example) forming each portion of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** is used as each sensor **4122**. Thereby, the high frequency abnormal vibration or the impact that is generated in the structural material of each portion of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** due to abnormality based on aging of the rotation member such as the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015** of the arms **4130L** and **4130R** or the decelerator can be detected, and it can be detected with high precision whether there is abnormality in the actuators **Ac4002** to **Ac4015**.

The fourth embodiment has been described. However, the embodiment may be implemented by various different embodiments other than the fourth embodiment. Therefore, the various different embodiments are hereinafter described as modifications.

(1) Case Where the Robot is Applied to Detection of a Contact of an Object

In the above embodiment, the robot disclosed in the present application is applied to the detection of abnormality in the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the robot disclosed in the present application may be applied to detection of a contact of an object to the arms **4103L** and **4103R**.

In this modification, the comparing/determining unit of the contact detecting unit (not illustrated in the drawings) of the robot controller **4150** detects whether the robot **4100** is in a normal state or an abnormal state, on the basis of the output value V (output signal) of each sensor **4122** of the sensor units **4120L** and **4120R**. In this specification, a state in which the object does not contact the arms **4013L** and **4103R** is defined as a normal state and a state in which the object contacts the arms **4013L** and **4103R** is defined as an abnormal state. Therefore, a subject that can be recognized as a thing is defined as an object. Accordingly, examples of the object include a product P to be gripped by the robot **4100**, the robot **4100** itself, a work apparatus such as the belt conveyor **4002**, a part of a building such as a wall, and an organism such as a living body. That is, in this modification, the comparing/determining unit of the contact detecting unit detects whether the object contacts the arms **4103L** and **4103R**, on the basis of the output value V (output signal) of each sensor **4122** of the sensor units **4120L** and **4120R**.

In this case, as described above, each sensor **4122** of the sensor units **4120L** and **4120R** detects the force that is applied to the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. Examples of the force that is applied to the arms **4103L** and **4103R** include the internal force that is generated by the operation of the arms **4103L** and **4103R** and the external force that is applied to the arms **4103L** and **4103R** from the outside. The external force is not applied to the arms **4103L** and **4103R** when the arms **4103L** and **4103R** are operated in a state in which the object does not contact the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. Therefore, each sensor **4122** detects only the vibration due to the internal force. Meanwhile, when the object contacts the arms **4103L** and **4103R**, the internal force and the external force are applied to the arms **4103L** and **4103R**. Therefore, each sensor **4122** detects the vibrations due to the internal force and the external force. For this reason, when the object contacts the arms **4103L** and **4103R**, the output value V of the sensor **4122** increases by the amount corresponding to the external force. Therefore, in this modification, the comparing/determining

unit of the contact detecting unit compares the output data of the output value V (specifically, output value V of the sensor 4122 based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit 4161) when the arms 4103L and 4103R execute the predetermined operation at the time of activating and the normative waveform previously recorded as the time history of the output value V (specifically, output value V of the sensor 4122 based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit 4161) of the sensor 4122 while the arms 4103L and 4103R execute the predetermined operation in a state in which the object does not contact the arms, and determines whether the object contacts the arms 4103L and 4103R.

FIG. 41 schematically illustrates an example of the predetermined operation that is executed by the arms 4103L and 4103R at the time of activating. In the example that is illustrated in FIG. 41, at the time of activating, under an environment in which an obstacle B exists around the robot 4100 (within the movable range of the arms 4103L and 4103R), the arms 4103L and 4103R perform the predetermined operation according to the position instruction from the robot controller 4150, that is, the operation from the instructed operation start position (position illustrated at the left side of FIG. 41) to the instructed operation completion position. At this time, the contact detecting unit determines whether the object contacts the arms 4103L and 4103R, using the above method. The arms 4103L and 4103R are operated from the operation start position to the inner side more than both sides of the product P on the belt conveyor 4002 (not illustrated in FIG. 41). When the contact detecting unit detects the contact of the object (obstacle B in this example) with respect to the arms 4103L and 4103R while the arms 4103L and 4103R execute the operation until the operation completion position, the robot controller 4150 stops the operation of the arms 4103L and 4103R at the corresponding position (position illustrated at the right side of FIG. 41).

In this example, the case where the contact of the obstacle B with respect to the arms 4103L and 4103R is detected and the operation is stopped when the contact is detected is described. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the contact of the product P with respect to the arms 4103L and 4103R may be detected, the operation may be stopped when the contact is detected, and the product P may be gripped by the hands 4111L and 4111R.

Even in this modification, the same effect as that of the above embodiment can be obtained. Since the external force applied to the arms 4103L and 4103R can be detected by the sensor 4122, it can be detected whether the object contacts the arms 4103L and 4103R. As described above, since the sensor 4122 is provided in the bases of the actuators Ac4002 and Ac4009 of the arms 4103L and 4103R closest to the side of the base end, a contact at the side of the front end can be detected. That is, a contact with respect to the entire arms 4103L and 4103R can be detected. Therefore, excessive load can be avoided from being applied to the robot 4100 or the object existing around the robot 4100.

In particular, the robot controller 4150 has the high-pass filter unit 4161 that extracts the high frequency vibration component of the output signal of each sensor 4122, and the comparing/determining unit of the contact detecting unit compares the normative waveform based on the high frequency vibration component extracted by the high-pass filter unit 4161 and the output waveform and determines whether the object contacts the arms 4103L and 4103R. Thereby, since the frequency component due to the contact of the object with

respect to the arms 4103L and 4103R can be removed, it can be detected with high precision whether the object contacts the arms 4103L and 4103R.

(2) Case Where the Robot is Applied to a Single-Arm Robot

In the above embodiment, the robot disclosed in the present application is applied to the robot 4100 to be the dual-arm robot that has the two arms 4103L and 4103R. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto and the robot disclosed in the present application may be applied to a single-arm robot that has one robot arm. Even in this case, the same effect as that of the above embodiment can be obtained.

In addition to the configuration described above, the configuration where the methods according to the embodiment and the modifications are appropriately combined may be used.

Although not specifically described, this embodiment can be variously changed in a range that does not depart from the spirit and scope of the embodiment.

Next, a fifth embodiment will be described.

In a field of robots, it is preferable to avoid an excessive load from being generated with respect to a robot or an object existing around the robot. For this reason, various technologies for detecting generation or non-generation of a contact (external force) with respect to the robot are studied.

For example, a technology for attaching a force detector to detect the external force to a base end of a robot arm and stopping an operation of the robot arm on the basis of the detection result of the force detector or operating the robot arm in a reduction direction of the external force when the excessive external force is disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (JP-A) No. 2006-21287.

Meanwhile, in the related art, if the operation of the robot arm is stopped after the external force is detected, when the contacted object is operated, the strong impact force may be generated, even though the robot arm is stopped. Even when the robot is operated in a direction where the external force is reduced, a new operation instruction is generated with respect to the robot arm after the external force is detected and the robot arm is operated. For this reason, a response time until the robot arm is operated after a contact (collision) is generated increases.

According to one aspect of the embodiment, a robot system and a robot control device that can detect the external force generated due to a contact of the robot arm and an object existing around the robot arm are provided.

According to this embodiment, even when disturbance due to a ripple of a decelerator included in the actuator is applied to the sensor incorporated in the robot arm, generation or non-generation and a direction of the external force can be detected without erroneously detecting the generation or non-generation of the external force. If the external force is detected, a torque instruction value with respect to the actuator is limited. If the external force exceeds the torque instruction value with respect to each actuator, because the actuator is displaced according to the external force, the impact that is generated due to a rapid load of the external force can be alleviated. Even when the external force is continuously applied to the robot arm, such as when the object existing around the robot arm continuously move to the robot arm, the actuator is displaced according to the external force and the posture of the robot arm is changed. Therefore, the object that exists around the robot arm can be avoided.

Hereinafter, the fifth embodiment will be described with reference to the drawings. This embodiment is an example of the case where a robot system disclosed in the present application is applied to a robot system that performs work such as

inspection, sterilization, and milking with respect to a domestic animal, using a robot arm **5002**.

As illustrated in FIG. **42**, a robot system **5100** according to this embodiment includes a floor **F** that receives a domestic animal **5001**, a robot arm **5002**, a controller **5003**, and a sensor unit **5004**.

As illustrated in FIG. **43**, the robot arm **5002** includes a base **5040** fixed to a mounting surface (wall surface, floor, or the like) **5101**. The robot arm **5002** further includes a first structural material **5041**, a second structural material **5042**, a third structural material **5043**, a fourth structural material **5044**, a fifth structural material **5045**, a sixth structural material **5046**, and a flange **5047** that are disposed sequentially from the base **5040** to a front end of the robot arm **5002** are connected to one another through actuators (rotation joints) driven to rotate.

The base **5040** and the first structural material **5041** are connected through a first actuator (first joint) **5041A** and the first structural material **5041** is rotated by driving of the first actuator **5041A**. The first structural material **5041** and the second structural material **5042** are connected through a second actuator (second joint) **5042A** and the second structural material **5042** is rotated by driving of the second actuator **5042A**.

The second structural material **5042** and the third structural material **5043** are connected through a third actuator (third joint) **5043A** and the third structural material **5043** is rotated by driving of the third actuator **5043A**. The third structural material **5043** and the fourth structural material **5044** are connected through a fourth actuator (fourth joint) **5044A** and the fourth structural material **5044** is rotated by driving of the fourth actuator **5044A**.

The fourth structural material **5044** and the fifth structural material **5045** are connected through a fifth actuator (fifth joint) **5045A** and the fifth structural material **5045** is rotated by driving of the fifth actuator **5045A**. The fifth structural material **5045** and the sixth structural material **5046** are connected through a sixth actuator (sixth joint) **5046A** and the sixth structural material **5046** is rotated by driving of the sixth actuator **5046A**.

The sixth structure **5046** and the flange **5047** are connected through a seventh actuator (seventh joint) **5047A** and the flange **5047** and an end effector **5002A** such as a hand that is attached to the flange **5047** are rotated by driving of the seventh actuator **5047A**.

Various tools (not illustrated in the drawings) such as an inspector, a milker, and a sterilizer are attached to the end effect **5002A** and perform work such as inspection, sterilization, and milking, with respect to a target portion **5001A** of the domestic animal **5001**.

To the end effector (that is, front end of the robot arm **5002**) **5002A**, an object detecting sensor (in this embodiment, the object detecting sensor is a camera, but various different sensors can be applied) **5002B** is attached.

The object detecting sensor **5002B** is aligned to a sufficiently wide detection region including the target portion **5001A** of the domestic animal **5001** that moves irregularly in the floor **F** partitioned in all directions.

An image that is acquired by the object detecting sensor **5002B** is input to a target recognizing unit **5002C** of the controller **5003** and the target recognizing unit **5002C** detects the position of the target portion **5001A** of the domestic animal **5001** and inputs the detection result as the target position to an operation instructing unit **5005** to be described below in real time.

In this embodiment, in order to simplify the description, the controller **5003** is illustrated as one control device. How-

ever, in actuality, the controller **5003** is configured using plural computers and the target recognizing unit **5002C** or an external force detecting unit (to be described below) may be configured using a control device that is separated from the robot controller to control an operation of the robot arm **5002**.

Each of the first to seventh actuators **5041A** to **5047A** is composed of a decelerator-integrated servo motor that has a hollow portion where a cable (not illustrated in the drawings) can be inserted, and the rotation positions of the actuators are input as signals from encoders incorporated in the actuators to the controller **5003** through the cable.

As illustrated in FIG. **44**, the sensor unit **5004** includes a sensor fixing jig **5015** and four sensors **S1** to **S4** and the disk-shaped sensor fixing jig **5015** is attached to an end of a stator of the first actuator **5041A** of the robot arm **5002**.

Each of the sensors **S1** to **S4** (**5016a** to **5016d**) is buried in the disk-shaped sensor fixing jig **5015** and is disposed along the same circle arc (virtual circle) at an equal interval. In each of the sensors **S1** to **S4**, quartz is used as a piezoelectric body. Each of the sensors **S1** to **S4** detects the amount of strain of a radial direction of the sensor fixing jig **5015** as a voltage, and the obtained voltage is amplified by an amplifying unit **5017** and is input to the controller **5003**.

By a crystal oscillator (crystal piezoelectric element) in each of the sensors **S1** to **S4**, a response time is fast as compared with the case where a strain gauge or other piezoelectric element is used, superior responsiveness can be obtained as compared with an operation cycle of a servo unit **5007** to be described below, and the impact by a contact of an object existing around the robot arm can be sufficiently alleviated.

In this embodiment, as described above, the crystal oscillator is used because the response time is fast. However, any device may be applied to each of the sensors **S1** to **S4**, as long as the superior responsiveness is obtained. In the crystal piezoelectric sensor, durability is superior as compared with the strain gauge or a common collision sensor and high-precision detection is enabled even when the sensor unit **5004** is provided in a base end where a load based on the self weight of the robot arm **5002** is largest.

An operation of driving portions that include the actuators **5041A** to **5047A** of the robot arm **5002** is controlled by the controller **5003**.

The controller **5003** is composed of a computer that includes a storage device, an electronic operator, and an input device (all of which are not illustrated in the drawings), and is connected to each driving portion of the robot arm **5002** to communicate with each other.

As illustrated in FIG. **42**, the controller **5003** has a target recognizing unit **5002C**, an operation instructing unit **5005**, a smoothing processing unit **5006**, a servo unit **5007**, a contact detecting unit (external force detecting unit) **5008**, a position instruction intercepting unit (operation instruction intercepting unit) **5009**, an external force direction detecting unit **5010**, an avoidance axis selecting unit **5011**, an avoidance compensating unit (friction compensation torque adding unit) **5012**, a gravity torque compensating unit (gravity compensation torque adding unit) **5013**, and a torque limiting unit **5014** as components.

As described above, the target recognizing unit **5002C** calculates the position of the target portion **5001A** of the domestic animal **5001**, on the basis of the detection result of the object detecting sensor **5002B**, and the position of the target portion **5001A** is transmitted as the target position to the operation instructing unit **5005**.

As a method that recognizes the position of the target portion **5001A** by the target recognizing unit **5002C**, various methods may be applied.

The operation instructing unit **5005** calculates a position instruction (operation instruction) with respect to each of the actuators **Ac5041** to **Ac5047**, on the basis of the input of the target position from the target recognizing unit **5002C**, and pools the position instruction to the smoothing processing unit **5006**.

In the smoothing processing unit **5006**, the pooled position instruction is sequentially given to the side of the servo unit **5007** for every operation cycle T (mm/sec).

The servo unit **5007** has a joint angle feedback circuit F_p based on a detection value of the encoder of each of the actuators **5041A** to **5047A** and a joint angle feedback circuit F_v based on an angular speed detection value obtained from the detection value of the encoder of each of the actuators **5041A** to **5047A**, for each of the actuators **Ac1001** to **Ac1015**. The servo unit **5007** outputs the torque instruction T_{ref} for every operation cycle T .

The contact detecting unit **5008** detects whether the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm **5002** contact, on the basis of an output of the sensor unit **5004**.

The configuration of the contact detecting unit **5008** will be described in detail. As illustrated in FIG. **45**, the contact detecting unit **5008** has a high-pass filter unit **5018** and a threshold value determining unit **5019**.

The high-pass filter unit **5018** has high-pass filters (or band-pass filters) F_1 to F_4 that extract only high frequency components with respect to the sensor signals from the amplifying units **5017** of the sensor units **5004**, and separates a signal component due to the external force and transmits the signal component to the external force direction detecting unit **5010**.

With respect to adjustment of each of the high-pass filters F_1 to F_4 , a contact experiment (for example, the robot arm is beat by a hammer) is performed in advance, a frequency of a detection signal of each of the sensors S_1 to S_4 when the external force is generated by a contact is measured, and a cutoff frequency of each filter is determined to remove a frequency component other than the frequency due to the external force.

In this way, a signal component included in the detection signal of each of the sensors S_1 to S_4 due to a factor of disturbance generated in the robot arm **5002**, such as a ripple of a decelerator incorporated in each of the actuators **5041A** to **5047A**, and a signal component due to the external force based on a contact with a peripheral object or the robot arm can be separated from each other.

The threshold value determining unit **5019** determines whether an absolute value of the detection signal (after passing through the high-pass filters F_1 to F_4) of each of the sensors S_1 to S_4 exceeds a predetermined threshold value (adjusted by a collision experiment). When an absolute value of any one of the detection signals of the sensors S_1 to S_4 exceeds the threshold value, the threshold value determining unit **5019** determines that the contact is generated (external force is generated).

When it is detected by the threshold value determining unit **5019** that the contact is generated, the position instruction intercepting unit **5009** (refer to FIG. **42**) is operated, transmission of the position instruction from the operation instructing unit **5005** to the smoothing processing unit **5006** is intercepted, the position instruction that is transmitted to the servo unit **5007** is decreased by the smoothing processing unit **5006**, and transmission of the position instruction with respect to the servo unit **5007** is intercepted.

If the transmission of the position instruction with respect to the servo unit **5007** is intercepted, a value of the torque instruction T_{ref} that is output by the feedback decreases and the robot arm **5002** is quickly stopped.

As illustrated in FIG. **46**, the external force direction detecting unit **5010** has a peak calculating unit **5020**, a positive/negative determining unit **5021**, and a table referring unit **5022** as components.

The peak calculating unit **5020** calculates a peak value of an impact wave, with respect to a detection signal for each of the sensors S_1 to S_4 output from the high-pass filter unit **5018**. The peak value is a maximum value of an absolute value of the detection signal (that is, maximum value in predetermined time).

The positive/negative determining unit **5021** outputs positive/negative (1 or -1) or zero of each peak value to be calculated.

That is, when the absolute value of the peak value is less than the predetermined threshold value, the positive/negative determining unit **5021** outputs zero (determination impossibility).

The table referring unit **5022** calculates torque of a direction where the external force generated by a contact of the domestic animal **5001** is applied (external force direction torque), by referring to a data table previously set to a storage device, with respect to a combination of positive/negative of an impact wave peak of each sensor signal.

The data table may be configured as a matrix in which the combination of positive/negative of the detection signal for each of the sensors S_1 to S_4 and the external force direction are associated with each other, as illustrated in FIGS. **47** and **48**.

As such, by referring to the data table and the combination of the positive/negative of the detection signal for each of the sensors S_1 to S_4 , collision directions (in this embodiment, eight directions) can be broadly calculated using the plural sensor signals, from the positive/negative of the impact wave peak at the time of colliding. Since the sensor unit **5004** is attached to the side of the base **5040** of the robot arm **5002**, the collision directions can be calculated, even when the contact object such as the domestic animal **5001** contacts the position of the side of the base end as well as a peripheral portion of a front end of the robot arm **5002**.

As illustrated in FIG. **49**, the avoidance axis selecting unit **5011** has a vector converting unit **5023** and a joint vector positive/negative determining unit **5024** as components.

The vector converting unit **5023** multiplies an external force direction vector described by work coordinates of the robot arm **5002** by a transposed matrix of a Jacobian matrix of the robot arm **5002** and converts the external force direction vector into a vector for each of the actuators **5041A** to **5047A**.

In this case, since the robot arm **5002** is a redundant manipulator, a vector of the actuator **5043A** (redundant axis) can set as zero.

The actuators **5041A** and **5042A** are set to a first axis and a second axis, respectively, the actuators **5044A** to **5047A** are set to the third to sixth axis, and the external force direction vector is converted into each axis vector. When the first to sixth axis are not specified, these axis are simply called a axis.

As the Jacobian matrix, a Jacobian matrix with respect to a wrist point of the robot arm **5002** may be calculated, because the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm **5002** are likely to contact in the vicinity of a wrist of the robot arm **5002**.

Instead of the transposed matrix, an inverse matrix may be used. However, it is preferable to use the transposed matrix,

because a calculation load of the transposed matrix is smaller than a calculation load of the inverse matrix.

The joint vector positive/negative determining unit **5024** outputs positive/negative (1 or -1) with respect to each component (component of each joint axis) of the external force direction vector converted in a joint space. When an absolute value is less than the predetermined threshold value, the joint vector positive/negative determining unit **5024** outputs zero.

As illustrated in FIG. **50**, the avoidance compensating unit **5012** has a friction compensation vector calculating unit **5025** and a friction compensation value storage unit **5026** as components.

The friction compensation vector calculating unit **5025** multiplies each component (± 1 or zero) of the external force direction vector in each joint space output from the avoidance axis selecting unit **5011** by a friction compensation value of each axis and outputs a calculated value.

The friction compensation value of each axis is previously adjusted and a determined value is stored in the friction compensation value storage unit **5026**.

When the corresponding axis is completely stopped, the friction compensation value is calculated on the basis of a maximum static friction torque of the actuator corresponding to the axis. When the corresponding axis rotates, the friction compensation value is calculated on the basis of a dynamic friction torque of the actuator corresponding to the axis.

As illustrated in FIG. **42**, the friction compensation vector (torque) that is output from the avoidance compensating unit **5012** and the gravity compensation vector are added to the torque instruction T_{ref} in the servo unit **5007**.

The gravity compensation torque is calculated by the gravity torque compensating unit **5013**. Hereinafter, a sum of the friction compensation torque and the gravity compensation torque is called an avoidance compensation torque T_{avo} .

A sum of the original torque instruction T_{ref} that is output from the feedback circuit of the servo unit **5007** and the avoidance compensation torque T_{avo} is input to the torque limiting unit **5014**.

An output of the avoidance axis selecting unit **5011** is input to the torque limiting unit **5014** as well as the avoidance compensating unit **5012**. With respect to the axis where the output of the avoidance axis selecting unit **5011** is +1 or -1, the torque limiting unit **5014** limits a torque instruction value with respect to the corresponding actuator.

As illustrated in FIG. **51**, the torque limiting unit **5014** sets the torque instruction value with respect to the corresponding actuator to be limited within a torque limitation width **27** (W_{trp}) previously calculated by an experiment, using the avoidance compensation torque **26** (T_{avo}) as a center value. Therefore, a motor torque is limited between the torque upper limit **28** (TU) and the torque lower limit **29** (TL) and the limited torque is transmitted as a final torque instruction value to each of the actuators **5041A** to **5047A**.

As described above, the avoidance compensation torque T_{avo} is the torque to support each actuator by the robot arm **5002** with respect to a moment load by the self weight and (gravity compensation torque) and operate the robot arm **5002** in a direction where the external force is applied with respect to the static friction force or the dynamic friction force of the actuator (friction compensation torque). For this reason, if a value of the torque upper limit **28** (TU) is excessively large, generation of the excessive torque is allowed to cause a load with respect to the robot arm **5002**.

Meanwhile, if a value of the torque lower limit **29** (TL) is excessively small, the self weight is not supported and the joint is unintentionally rotated by the gravity.

Therefore, by sufficiently decreasing the torque limitation width W_{trp} , the unnecessary force is not applied to the domestic animal **5001**, and each joint of the robot arm **5002** can be guided to a direction where the impact or the external force based on the collision is alleviated. The torque limitation value W_{trp} is preferably minimized (the difference of the torque upper limit TU and the torque lower limit TL is small). However, the predetermined gravity compensation torque or the predetermined friction compensation torque do not necessarily become an optimal value and may include an error. For this reason, in order to allow the error of the predetermined gravity compensation torque or the predetermined friction compensation torque, the torque limitation width W_{trq} that is previously obtained by an experiment needs to be set. By setting the torque limitation width W_{trq} , the robot arm **5002** can be stably controlled.

The torque may be limited immediately after the rotation axis is selected and the avoidance compensation torque is fixed.

Since the robot system according to this embodiment has the above-described configuration, at the time of starting the work, the robot system detects the position of the target portion **5001A** of the domestic animal **5001** at any time, on the basis of a detection image from the object detecting sensor **5002B**, provides the detected position as the target position for every operation cycle to the servo unit **5007**, approaches the tool of the end effector to the target portion **5001A** even when the position of the target portion **5001A** is irregularly changed by the feedback control, and performs the work such as such as inspection, sterilization, and milking with respect to the target portion **5001A** of the domestic animal **5001**.

When the domestic animal **5001** moves greatly at the time of the work and contacts the robot arm **5002** and the contact (external force) is detected by the contact detecting unit **5008**, the position instruction intercepting unit **5009** is operated and intercepts the position instruction from the operation instructing unit **5005** such that the position instruction is not transmitted to the servo unit **5007**. Therefore, the robot arm **5002** is stopped.

At this time, since the instruction data held in the smoothing processing unit **5006** is sequentially provided to the servo unit **5007** as described above, generation of the impact by rapid stop of the robot arm **5002** is reduced.

Meanwhile, a sensor output is transmitted from the contact detecting unit **5008** to the external force detecting unit **5010** and the external force direction detecting unit **5010** detects a collision direction of the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm **5002**. The avoidance axis selecting unit **5011** selects a joint axis of the robot arm **5002** to be avoided, on the basis of the detected external force direction vector. The avoidance compensating unit **5012** performs operation compensation with respect to the selected avoidance axis and alleviates the collision. The avoidance axis selecting unit **5011** moves to the torque limiting unit **5014** to limit the torque of the rotation axis.

Thereby, when the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm **5002** contact, because the robot arm **5002** is actively avoided in an external force direction with high responsiveness under a series of control of the servo unit, the impact at the time of the contact can be alleviated. Since the robot arm **5002** is stopped after being avoided in the external force direction from the contact generation position, the possibility of the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm **5002** continuously colliding can be lowered.

The torque limiting unit **5014** of the robot control device for the domestic animal in this embodiment limits the avoidance object axis within the torque limitation width W_{trq}

based on the avoidance compensation torque. Therefore, even when the domestic animal **5001** further moves to the side of the robot arm **5002**, the unnecessary force is not applied from the robot arm **5002** to the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm can be guided to a direction where the impact force is alleviated. The excessive external force is not applied to the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm **5002** and safety is improved.

In the contact detecting unit **5008** according to this embodiment, the high-pass filter unit **5018** extracts only the high frequency vibration at the time of the collision from the output signal of the sensor unit **5004**. Therefore, even when the disturbance such as the ripple of the decelerator is applied to the sensor, the contact of the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm **5002** can be detected at a high speed and with high sensitivity.

Since the avoidance compensating unit **5012** of the robot control device for the domestic animal in this embodiment adds the avoidance compensation torque to the torque instruction, a response speed can be increased as compared with the case of the avoidance and the compensation using the position instruction.

Next, a sixth embodiment will be described.

A robot system according to this embodiment is different from the robot system according to the fifth embodiment in the configuration of the controller **5003**. Therefore, the same portions as those of the fifth embodiment are denoted by the same reference numerals and the overlapped description is omitted.

FIG. **52** is a block diagram illustrating the detailed configuration of a contact detecting unit **5008** according to this embodiment.

In this embodiment, the contact detecting unit **5008** has a moving average filter unit **5030** between the high-pass filter unit **5018** and the threshold value determining unit **5019**.

The moving average filter unit **5030** has first to fourth moving average filters that output an average of sensor signals in predetermined time going back from the present time, with respect to the sensor signals output from the high-pass filter unit **5018**.

By this configuration, when a disturbance signal such as a servo noise having a frequency component equal to or higher than a signal component of an impact wave passes through the high-pass filters, only the disturbance signal is removed by the moving average filter. As a result, in the case other than the collision, erroneous detection of a contact by the threshold value determining unit **5019** can be avoided. As described above, if the threshold value determining unit **5019** detects the contact, the sensor signal passing unit **5031** is operated at the same time as the operation of the position instruction intercepting unit **5009**, and the sensor signal that is output from the high-pass filter unit **5018** is output to the external force direction detecting unit **5010**.

FIG. **53** is a block diagram illustrating the detailed configuration of the external force direction detecting unit **5010** according to this embodiment.

A signal integrating unit **5032** calculates an integration value of the sensor signals input until the present time, with respect to the sensor signals output from the sensor signal passing unit **5031** of FIG. **52**. By using the integration value of the signals, the positive/negative change of the signals is smoothed, and certainty of identification of positive/negative at each time is improved.

As an example of a signal integration processing result, a signal **34** before the integration is input to the signal integrating unit **5032** and a signal **35** after the integration is obtained, as illustrated in FIG. **54**. In the signal **35** after the integration,

the frequency in the change in the positive/negative becomes lower than that of the signal **34** before the integration.

A narrowing condition referring unit **5033** calculates a collision direction (external force direction vector) by referring to a predetermined external force direction narrowing condition table (data table), with respect to the positive/negative of each signal integration value output by the positive/negative determining unit **5021**.

As illustrated in FIG. **55**, the narrowing condition table is data where the positive/negative of each of sensor signal integration values at plural predetermined times and the external force direction vector candidates are associated and is stored in the storage device of the controller **5003**.

In an example of FIG. **55**, the narrowing condition table is composed of a table at four times of $X1$ to $X4$ ($X1 < X2 < X3 < X4$).

An arrangement relationship of the sensors **S1** to **S4** and the external force direction vectors **V1** to **V8** is as illustrated in FIG. **48**. The narrowing condition referring unit **5033** extracts the external force direction vector candidates that satisfy a condition with respect to positive/negative of each sensor signal integration value at each time. For example, as illustrated in FIG. **56**, the case where the combination (negative, negative, positive, and positive) of the positive/negative of the integration values of the sensors **S1** to **S4** at the time $X1$ will be described.

When the integration value of the sensor **S1** is negative, the external force direction vector candidate becomes any one of the external force direction vectors **V1**, **V3**, and **V7**. When the integration value of the sensor **S2** is negative, the external force direction vector candidate becomes any one of the external force direction vectors **V1**, **V5**, and **V7**. At this time, **V1** and **V7** become both the external force direction vector candidates. Likewise, **V1** and **V7** become the external force direction vector candidates with respect to the positive/negative of the integration values of the sensors **S3** and **S4**.

If the number of extracted external force direction vectors is 1, the extraction result (external force direction vector) is input to the avoidance axis selecting unit **5011**. If the number of external force direction vector candidates is 2 or more, the external force direction vector candidates are calculated using both the extraction result of the external force direction vector candidates at the next time and the extraction result until the current time.

In the case of the above example, the external force direction vector is continuously extracted by referring to the combination of the positive/negative of the integration values at the next time $X2$ and the narrowing condition table. In this way, narrowing is repeated until the number of external force direction vector candidates becomes 1 or less. By using the sensor signals at the plural times, a detection rate of an external force direction can be improved. When the number of external force direction vector candidates becomes 0 by narrowing or the number of external force direction vector candidates is 2 or more in the case of referring to all of the tables until the predetermined narrowing end time, it is determined that the external force direction is uncertain, and all elements of the external force direction vectors are set to zero and are input to the avoidance axis selecting unit **5011**.

Since the robot system according to this embodiment has the above-described configuration, the disturbance that passes through the high-pass filter unit **5018** and is generated in very short time is suppressed by the moving average filter unit **5030**, and erroneous detection of contact generation performed by the contact detecting unit **5008** when the object such as the domestic animal and the robot arm **5002** do not contact is suppressed.

The external force direction detecting unit **5010** decreases the frequency in the change in the positive/negative of the signal by the signal integrating unit **5032** and certainty of the identification of the positive/negative at each time is improved. Since the narrowing condition referring unit **5033** refers to the sensor signals at the plural times, the detection rate of the external force direction is improved.

Next, a seventh embodiment will be described.

A robot system according to this embodiment is different from the robot system according to the fifth embodiment in the configuration of the controller **5003**. Therefore, the same portions as those of the fifth embodiment are denoted by the same reference numerals and the overlapped description is omitted.

As illustrated in FIG. **57**, this embodiment is different from the fifth embodiment in that an operation instruction returning unit **5038** is provided as a component of the controller **5003**.

The operation instruction returning unit **5038** releases interception of a position instruction by the position instruction intercepting unit **5009**, when the contact detecting unit **5008** does not newly detect the external force within a predetermined period (for example, in predetermined time after a collision avoidance operation), in a state in which the contact detecting unit **5008** detects a contact and a position instruction from the operation instructing unit **5005** is intercepted, and the position instruction from the operation instructing unit **5005** is transmitted to the side of the servo unit **5007** through the smoothing processing unit **5006**.

Since the robot system according to the seventh embodiment has the above-described configuration, the robot system previously sets a predetermined period to an optimal value by an experiment. When the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm **5002** contact during the operation of the robot arm **5002**, the robot arm performs an avoidance operation in an external force application direction during the predetermined period and an excessive contact of the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm **5002** can be prevented. After the predetermined period passes, because the approaching operation with respect to the target portion **5001A** is restarted on the basis of the detection result of the object detecting sensor **5002B**, even though the contact is generated, the robot arm **5002** is not stopped or the robot arm is stopped in a short time, and the work such as the inspection, the sterilization, and the milking with respect to the domestic animal **5001** can be continuously performed.

That is, it is preferable to stably perform the work with respect to the work object (or position target of the robot) without stopping the work, while a slight contact of the robot arm **5002** and the object existing around the robot arm is allowed, according to an application purpose of the robot system **5100**.

In the case of this embodiment, for example, work efficiency may be greatly lowered, if the robot arm **5002** is stopped, whenever the domestic animal **5001** moves with the high frequency and frequently contacts the robot arm **5002**. However, if the predetermined period is set, when the domestic animal **5001** and the robot arm **5002** contact, the work is continuously performed by the robot arm **5002** while the robot arm **5002** is made to execute the avoidance operation in the external force direction and the excessive external force (or impact) is suppressed, and work efficiency can be suppressed from being lowered due to the contact.

The fifth to seventh embodiments have been described. However, the embodiment may be implemented by various different embodiments other than the fifth to seventh embodi-

ments. Therefore, the various different embodiments are hereinafter described as modifications.

For example, in the above embodiment, the four crystal piezoelectric sensors are buried as the sensor unit **5004** in the sensor fixing jig of the base of the robot. However, the number of sensors may be 3 or less or five or more. The sensors are buried in the sensor fixing jig. However, the sensors may be attached to a surface of the robot. Alternatively, sensor elements other than the crystal piezoelectric sensor may be used.

The maximum number of times of narrowing the external force direction is 4. However, the maximum number of times of narrowing the external force direction may be 3 or less or 5 or more.

The above embodiment is not limited to the case where the work is performed with respect to the domestic animal and may be applied to various purposes. For example, the above embodiment may be applied to a control device in the case where a human being and a robot perform work in cooperation with each other.

Next, an eighth embodiment will be described.

In a multiple joint robot, it may be required to control a robot having a degree of freedom (redundant degree of freedom) higher than a degree of freedom of the required position/posture. That is, since the robot has the redundant degree of freedom, the posture of the manipulator can be variously changed even though the required position/posture is taken with respect to the object. Therefore, by appropriately controlling the redundant degree of freedom, the work can be performed while interference with the manipulator or the object existing around the manipulator is avoided at the time of the work in a relatively narrow place. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (JP-A) No. 2007-203380 discloses a method that controls the manipulator having the redundant degree of freedom.

Meanwhile, a large number of manipulators are operated along a previously instructed operation path. According to an application purpose, the work may be performed with respect to a work object where the position is uncertain, such as a moving work object. In this case, the target position/posture of the manipulator is modified on the basis of information of a sensor to detect the position of the work object. Thereby, the work can be performed with respect to the work object while the manipulator follows the work object.

However, in the case where the manipulator has the redundant degree of freedom, in the method in the related art that determines the operation amounts of all of the driving axis including the redundant degree of freedom by the instruction in advance, when the position of the work object is moved as described above, the position of the redundant degree of freedom does not become necessarily the appropriate position, and interference (contact) with the work object or the manipulator is generated.

The instructed operation path may be changed according to the work object, the manipulator unintentionally may take the singular posture, and a problem may be generated in control of the manipulator.

This problem is generated in the case where an obstacle existing in an operation range of the manipulator moves, the case where an unintentional contact with the manipulator and an object existing around the manipulator is generated, and the case where an operation orbit of the manipulator is changed, in addition to the case where the target position/posture is changed on the basis of the sensor.

According to one aspect of an embodiment, a robot system and a robot control device that can optimally control a manipulator having a redundant degree of freedom are provided.

According to this embodiment, even when the targeted position/posture is changed, a redundant axis of the manipulator can be appropriately set with the small operation amount, and the manipulator having the redundant degree of freedom can be optimally controlled.

Hereinafter, an eighth embodiment will be described with reference to the drawings. This embodiment is an example of the case where the robot system disclosed in the present application is applied to a robot system to perform work such as inspection, sterilization, and milking for a domestic animal, using a manipulator **6002**.

As illustrated in FIG. **58**, a robot system **6100** according to this embodiment includes a floor **F** that receives a domestic animal **6001**, a manipulator **6002**, a controller **6003**, and a sensor unit **6004**.

As illustrated in FIG. **59**, in the manipulator **6002**, a base **6040** that is fixed to a mounting surface (wall surface or floor) **6101** and a first structural material **6041**, a second structural material **6042**, a third structural material **6043**, a fourth structural material **6044**, a fifth structural material **6045**, a sixth structural material **6046**, and a flange **6047** that are disposed sequentially from the base **6040** to a front end of the manipulator **6002** are connected through actuators (rotation joint) that are driven to rotate.

The base **6040** and the first structural material **6041** are connected through a first actuator (first joint) **6041A** and the first structural material **6041** is rotated by driving of the first actuator **6041A**. The first structural material **6041** and the second structural material **6042** are connected through a second actuator (second joint) **6042A** and the second structural material **6042** is rotated by driving of the second actuator **6042A**.

The second structural material **6042** and the third structural material **6043** are connected through a third actuator (third joint) **6043A** and the third structural material **6043** is rotated by driving of the third actuator **6043A**.

The third structural material **6043** and the fourth structural material **6044** are connected through a fourth actuator (fourth joint) **6044A** and the fourth structural material **6044** is rotated by driving of the fourth actuator **6044A**.

The fourth structural material **6044** and the fifth structural material **6045** are connected through a fifth actuator (fifth joint) **6045A** and the fifth structural material **6045** is rotated by driving of the fifth actuator **6045A**. The fifth structural material **6045** and the sixth structural material **6046** are connected through a sixth actuator (sixth joint) **6046A** and the sixth structural material **6046** is rotated by driving of the sixth actuator **6046A**.

The sixth structure **6046** and the flange **6047** are connected through a seventh actuator (seventh joint) **6047A**, and the flange **6047** and an end effector **6002A** such as a hand that is attached to the flange **6047** are rotated by driving of the seventh actuator **6047A**.

In this embodiment, the third actuator (third joint) **6043A** is previously stored as a redundant axis in a storage region of the controller **6003** (redundant axis setting unit) and the rotation position of the third actuator **6043A** is optimally controlled by a function of the controller **6003** to be described below. The actuator **6043A** is called the redundant axis, the actuators **6041A** and **6042A** are called a first axis and a second axis, respectively, and the actuators **6044A** to **6047A** are called third to sixth axis, respectively. When the first to sixth axis are not specified, these axis are simply called a axis.

Various tools (not illustrated in the drawings) such as an inspector, a milker, and a sterilizer are attached to the end effect **6002A** and performs work such as inspection, sterilization, and milking, with respect to a target portion **6001A** of

the domestic animal **6001**. In the case of the manipulator **6002** according to this embodiment, a control point that is the position to control the operation position of the manipulator **6002** is set as a point where the manipulator can be linearly moved by driving of each of the actuators **6044A** to **6047A** and is positioned in the vicinity of a axis center of the sixth actuator **6046A**.

A position relationship of the control point, and the flange **6047**, and the end effector **6002A** and each tool is previously input to the controller **6003** and the position of each tool can be controlled by controlling the position/posture of the control point.

To the end effector (that is, front end of the robot arm **6002**) **6002A**, an object detecting sensor (in this embodiment, the object detecting sensor is a camera, but various different sensors can be applied) **6002B** is attached.

The object detecting sensor **6002B** is aligned to a sufficiently wide detection region including the target portion **6001A** of the domestic animal **6001** that moves irregularly in the floor **F** partitioned in all directions.

An image that is acquired by the object detecting sensor **6002B** is input to the target position/posture generating unit **6010** of the controller **6003** and the target position/posture generating unit **6010** detects the position of the target portion **6001A** of the domestic animal **6001** and inputs the detection result as the target position to a simulation unit **6005** to be described below in real time.

In this embodiment, in order to simplify the description, the controller **6003** is illustrated as one control device. However, in actuality, the controller **6003** is configured using plural computers and the target position/posture generating unit **6010** or an external force detecting unit (to be described below) may be configured using a control device that is separated from the robot controller to control an operation of the manipulator **6002**.

Each of the first to seventh actuators **6041A** to **6047A** is composed of a decelerator-integrated servo motor that has a hollow portion where a cable (not illustrated in the drawings) can be inserted, and the rotation positions of the actuators are input as signals from encoders incorporated in the actuators to the controller **6003** through the cable.

As illustrated in FIG. **60**, the sensor unit **6004** includes a sensor fixing jig **6025** and four sensors **S1** to **S4** and the disk-shaped sensor fixing jig **6025** is attached to a base of a stator of the first actuator **6041A** of the manipulator **6002**.

Each of the sensors **S1** to **S4** is buried in the disk-shaped sensor fixing jig **6025** and are disposed along the same circle arc (virtual circle) at an equal interval. In each of the sensors **S1** to **S4**, quartz is used as a piezoelectric body. Each of the sensors **S1** to **S4** detects the amount of strain of a radial direction of the sensor fixing jig **6025** as a voltage, and the obtained voltage is amplified by an amplifying unit (not illustrated in the drawings) and is input to the controller **6003**.

By a crystal oscillator (crystal piezoelectric element) in each of the sensors **S1** to **S4**, a response time is fast as compared with the case where a strain gauge or other piezoelectric element is used, superior responsiveness can be obtained as compared with an operation cycle of a servo control unit **6014** to be described below, and impact based on a contact of an object existing around the manipulator can be sufficiently alleviated.

In this embodiment, as described above, the crystal oscillator is used because the response time is fast. However, any device may be applied to each of the sensors **S1** to **S4**, as long as the superior responsiveness is obtained. In the crystal piezoelectric sensor, durability is superior as compared with the strain gauge or a common collision sensor and high-

precision detection is enabled even when the sensor unit **6004** is provided in a base end where a load based on the self weight of the manipulator **6002** is largest.

An operation of driving portions that include the actuators **6041A** to **6047A** of the manipulator **6002** is controlled by the controller **6003**.

The controller **6003** is composed of a computer that includes a storage device, an electronic operator, and an input device (all of which are not illustrated in the drawings), and is connected to each driving portion of the manipulator **6002** to communicate with each other.

As illustrated in FIG. **58**, the controller **6003** has a simulation unit **6005**, a redundant angle definition table generating unit **6006**, a redundant angle definition table **6007**, a table display/input unit **6008**, a target position/posture generating unit **6010**, a region determining unit **6011**, a redundant axis angle setting unit **6012**, an interpolation operating unit **6013**, a servo control unit **6014**, an amplifying unit **6015**, and an external force detecting unit (avoidance operation executing unit) **6016** as components.

The simulation unit **6005** is configured to generate an operation trace from the current position/posture to the target position/posture, on the basis of information of the position of an obstacle in an operation enabled region of the manipulator to be input in advance, the target position/posture of a control point from the target position/posture generating unit **6010**, and the current position/posture of the manipulator **6002** obtained from a detection signal of an encoder of each of the actuators **6041A** to **6047A**. As an algorithm for generating the operation trace, various algorithms may be applied.

The operation trace may be generated by the simulation unit **6005** at the time of an instruction operation of the manipulator **6002**. At the time of an automatic operation, a redundant angle may be determined by referring to the redundant angle definition table **6007**. By alleviating the load of a CPU, a solution (target position instruction with respect to each of the actuators **6041A** to **6047A**) can be determined at practical time.

On the basis of the input information from the table display/input unit **6008**, as illustrated in FIG. **61**, the redundant angle definition table generating unit **6006** divides a region **6101** of a three-dimensional space previously set in the operation region of the manipulator **6002** according to a previously executed experiment in consideration of the operation of the manipulator **6002** and an object existing around the manipulator or the domestic animal **6001**, and sets divided small regions.

The region **6101** and the small regions (m, n, l) are associated with a simultaneous transformation matrix with a reference coordinate system Σ_w of the manipulator **6002**, with respect to a reference coordinate system Σ_c . The region **6101** is previously divided into L small regions in a Z direction, N small regions in a Y direction, and M small regions in an X direction, on the basis of the experiment result described above.

Specifically, the redundant angle definition table generating unit **6006** determines the size of the region **6101**, according to the variation of the solid of the domestic animal **6001** (for example, the variation of the position of the target portion **6001A** or the variation of the position of an obstacle such as legs of the domestic animal **6001**). That is, when the variation is large, the region **6101** is set to have a large size, and when the variation is small, the region **6101** is set to have a small size.

Each of the divided small regions S_c (m, n, l) are set to become a rectangular solid. A shape of the small regions S_c

(m, n, l) is preferably rectangular, because the operation amount can be suppressed. However, various shapes may be set according to necessity.

In the redundant angle definition table **6007**, a parameter to set the position of a redundant axis with respect to each region of the divided region **6101** is associated.

Information of the region **6101**, that is, information of positions, dimensions, and shapes of the small regions S_c (m, n, l) and information of the parameters corresponding to the information are displayed on a display device by processing of the table display/input unit **6008** and the information can be input/modified by a worker using the input device.

The target position/posture generating unit **6010** is configured to generate the targeted position/postures of various tools gripped by the end effector **6002A** of the manipulator **6002**, on the basis of input information from the object detecting sensor **6002B** and input information from the external force detecting unit **6016** to be described below.

Meanwhile, when the external force detecting unit **6016** detects the external force, the target position/posture generating unit **6010** temporarily stops an operation based on the detection result of the object detecting sensor **6002B** and sets the newest target position/posture including a contact avoiding correction value of the target position/posture input from the external force detecting unit **6016** as the target position/posture.

The region determining unit **6011** selects the small region S of the redundant angle definition table **6007** from the small regions S_c (m, n, l), on the basis of the output of the target position/posture generating unit **6010** and the output of the redundant angle definition table **6007**.

When it is determined that the small corresponding to the output of the target position/posture generating unit **6010** does not exist in the small regions S_c (m, n, l), the region determining unit **6011** outputs an abnormal signal to the object detecting sensor **6002B**, and avoidance work such as focal adjustment is executed at the side of the object detecting sensor **6002B**.

Alternatively, When it is determined that the small corresponding to the output of the target position/posture generating unit **6010** does not exist in the small regions S_c (m, n, l), an error warning message may be displayed by a display device of the controller **6003**.

The redundant axis angle setting unit **6012** sets the angle (target position) of the redundant axis, on the basis of the parameter of the redundant angle definition table **6007** corresponding to the region selected by the region determining unit **6011**.

The interpolation operating unit **6013** performs an interpolation operation with respect to an operation aspect (or including the operation speed) of each of the actuators **6041A** to **6047A** until the target position/posture from the current position where an inverse kinematics operation is not executed, on the basis of the angular position of the third actuator **6043A** to be the redundant axis set by the redundant axis angle setting unit **6012** and the operation trace calculated by simulation unit **6005**, and outputs the target position instruction of each of the actuators **6041A** to **6047A** for every predetermined operation cycle.

The servo control unit **6014** performs the position speed feedback control, on the basis of the target position instruction of each of the actuators **6041A** to **6047A** output from the interpolation operating unit **6013** for every predetermined operation cycle and an input signal from an encoder of each of the actuators **6041A** to **6047A**.

The amplifying unit **6015** performs operation control of each of the actuators **6041A** to **6047A**, on the basis of the operation instruction output from the servo control unit **6014**.

The external force detecting unit **6016** detects whether the external force is generated with respect to the manipulator **6002**, on the basis of the input signal from each of the sensors **S1** to **S4**, calculates a contact avoiding correction value of the target position to make the manipulator **6002** avoid the external force, and inputs the correction value to the side of the target position/posture generating unit **6010**.

Since the robot system **6100** according to the eighth embodiment has the above-described configuration, at the time of starting the work, the object detecting sensor **6002B** measures the position of the target portion **6001A** of the domestic animal **6001**, the measurement result is input to the controller **6003**, and the target position/posture of the control point is calculated by the target position/posture generating unit **6010**.

The measurement information that is obtained from the object detecting sensor **6002B** is three position information of X, Y, and Z of translational degrees of freedom of 3. Operational degrees of freedom of the manipulator **6002** are 7 and redundant degrees of freedom are 4.

For this reason, in order to generate the target position/posture of degrees of freedom of 6 that is the sum of rotational degrees of freedom of 3 and translational degrees of freedom of 3 on the basis of the detection information of the object detecting sensor **6002B** according to this embodiment, the target portion **6001A** is assumed as a nipple of the domestic animal, and the nipple has a cylindrical shape. As illustrated in FIG. **62**, since a shape is constant around a Z" axis and the target portion **6001A** is downward, a rotation angle around Y" and X" axes is assumed as a constant angle, and the target position/posture generating unit **6010**, the region determining unit **6011**, and the redundant axis angle setting unit **6012** determines Rz (rotation position around the Z" axis) and an elbow angle Ex using the redundant angle definition table **6007**.

That is, the position and the coordinates (Xs, Ys, Zs) of the target portion **6001A** based on the object detecting sensor coordinate system that are calculated by the object detecting sensor **6002B** are input to the region determining unit **6011**, and a number of the corresponding small region is determined from the small regions Sc (m, n, l), by referring to the redundant angle definition table **6007** illustrated in FIG. **63**.

For example, if a region No2 is selected in FIG. **63**, as values of Rz and Ex, **47** and **75** are set by the redundant axis angle setting unit **6012**. The set position and posture angle are input to the interpolation operating unit **6013**, a target position instruction with respect to each of the actuators **6041A** to **6047A** is generated on the basis of inverse kinematics and is input to the servo control unit **6014** and the amplifying unit **6015**, and the manipulator **6002** positions the target portion **6001A** in the target portion **6001A** (refer to FIG. **62**). The above operation is repetitively executed for each sampling cycle of a measurement frequency (for example, 100 Hz or more) of the object detecting sensor **6002B**.

An operation cycle of the position speed feedback control in the servo control unit **6014** is shorter than the sample cycle.

As such, according to the robot system according to this embodiment, the target position/posture is calculated from each operation cycle, on the basis of the detection result input from the object detecting sensor **6002B** for each measurement frequency, and the angular position of the redundant axis is set from the collation result with the redundant angle definition table **6007**, on the basis of the target position/posture. Therefore, the redundant axis of the manipulator can

be appropriately set with the small operation amount, and the manipulator having the redundant degree of freedom can be optimally controlled.

Thereby, even when the manipulator **6002** is operated in a narrow work space where a moving obstacle such as the leg of the domestic animal **6001** exists, the posture of the redundant axis can be changed according to the position of the target portion **6001A**, and high work efficiency can be maintained by reducing the contact probability of the manipulator **6002** and the obstacle.

Even when the manipulator **6002** and the obstacle contact, because the target position/posture to avoid the external force is changed by the external force detecting unit (avoidance operation executing unit) **6016**, the manipulator **6002** does not excessively contact the obstacle and can avoid the obstacle. The angular position of the redundant axis is set from the collation result with the redundant angle definition table **6007**, on the basis of the modified target position/posture, at the time of the contact avoidance operation. Therefore, the posture of the manipulator **6002** can be appropriately controlled to reduce the contact probability with another obstacle, during the avoidance operation of the obstacle.

The eighth embodiment has been described. However, the embodiment may be implemented by various different embodiments other than the eighth embodiment. Therefore, the various different embodiments are hereinafter described as modifications.

The embodiment is not limited to the case where the work is performed with respect to the domestic animal and can be applied to various different purposes. For example, the embodiment can be applied to the case where the position of the obstacle in the operation range of the manipulator is changed.

In the above embodiment, the manipulator of the degree of freedom of 7 that has the seven actuators is described. However, the degree of freedom of the manipulator is not limited thereto and this embodiment can be applied to the manipulator having the degree of freedom of 8 or more by appropriately setting data of the redundant angle definition table.

In the case of the manipulator having the degree of freedom of 6 or less, when the degree of freedom of 1 or more is allowed with respect to an approach with respect to the work object, the manipulator has a redundant degree of freedom. However, this embodiment can be applied to the above case.

According to at least one embodiment described above, functionality of the robot can be improved.

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and representative embodiments shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A robot system comprising:

- a robot arm;
- one or more actuators that are provided in the robot arm to drive the robot arm;
- a sensor unit that detects an external force applied to at least one of the robot arm and the actuators; and
- a controller that controls an operation of each of the actuators and limits a torque instruction value for each of the actuators on the basis of a detection result of the sensor unit, wherein the controller includes:

83

an external force detecting unit that detects the direction of the external force when the external force is generated on the basis of the detection result of the sensor unit; and

an avoidance axis selecting unit that selects at least one of the actuators, on which an avoidance operation is performed, from among the actuators on the basis of the direction of the external force detected by the external force detecting unit.

2. The robot system according to claim 1, further comprising a position sensor that detects position and posture of a control point at which the position and posture is controlled by the controller in the robot arm or the actuators, wherein the controller includes:

an operation instruction setting unit that sets a position of each of the actuators corresponding to the position and posture of the control point as a target position and sets an operation instruction of each of the actuators;

a servo unit that generates a torque instruction to each of the actuators every predetermined operation period on the basis of at least the operation instruction and a detection result of the position sensor;

a gravity compensation torque adding unit that adds a gravity compensation torque for its own weight to the torque instruction generated by the servo unit; and

a friction compensation torque adding unit that adds a friction compensation torque to operate in the direction of the external force against a frictional force of the actuator to the torque instruction generated by the servo unit for each of the actuators selected by the avoidance axis selecting unit.

3. The robot system according to claim 2, wherein the controller further includes an operation instruction intercepting unit that intercepts the operation instruction to be given to the servo unit when the external force is detected by the external force detecting unit.

4. The robot system according to claim 3, wherein the controller further includes an operation instruction returning unit that releases interception of the operation instruction performed by the operation instruction intercepting unit when an external force is not detected by the external force detecting unit for more than a preset time period after the operation instruction is intercepted by the operation instruction intercepting unit.

5. The robot system according to claim 2, wherein the controller further includes a torque instruction limiting unit that limits a value of the torque instruction for each of the actuators, and

the torque instruction limiting unit sets an upper limit and a lower limit of the torque instruction value on the basis of a sum of the gravity compensation torque and the friction compensation torque.

6. The robot system according to claim 2, wherein the sensor unit includes a plurality of sensors that uses quartz as a piezoelectric body.

7. The robot system according to claim 6, wherein the sensor unit further includes a disk-shaped sensor fixing jig that is provided on a base of the most-bottom actuator in the robot arm, and the plurality of sensors is buried in the sensor fixing jig along a same circular arc.

8. The robot system according to claim 7, wherein the external force detecting unit extracts high frequency vibration components of signals supplied from the plurality of sensors and detects whether the external force exists on the basis of the extracted high frequency vibration components.

84

9. The robot system according to claim 8, wherein the external force detecting unit calculates peak values of the extracted high frequency vibration components for the respective sensors and detects the direction of the external force on the basis of a combination of positive and negative values of the peak values of the sensors.

10. The robot system according to claim 9, wherein the avoidance axis selecting unit executes a threshold process on each component of a vector obtained by multiplying a direction vector of the external force calculated by the external force detecting unit by a transposed matrix of a Jacobian matrix to calculate an avoidance object joint axis and a direction.

11. The robot system according to claim 10, wherein the friction compensation torque adding unit adds a maximum static friction torque of the actuator as the friction compensation torque, when the actuator selected by the avoidance axis selecting unit is stopped, and adds a dynamic friction torque of the actuator as the friction compensation torque, when the actuator is rotated.

12. The robot system according to claim 8, wherein the external force detecting unit detects whether the external force exists on the basis of moving averages obtained by executing a moving averaging process on the extracted high frequency vibration components for the respective sensors.

13. The robot system according to claim 12, wherein the controller has a data table where a combination of positive and negative values of the integration values of the respective sensors or a combination of positive and negative values of the moving averages of the respective sensors is associated with directions of the external force, and

the external force detecting unit detects the direction of the external force on the basis of combinations of positive and negative values of the integration values of the respective sensors or combinations of positive and negative values of the moving averages of the respective sensors at times after the generation of the external force is detected.

14. The robot system according to claim 8, wherein the external force detecting unit calculates integration values of the high frequency vibration components for the respective sensors after the generation of the external force is detected, and detects the direction of the external force on the basis of a combination of positive and negative values of the integration values.

15. A control device of a robot that includes a robot arm, one or more actuators that are provided in the robot arm to drive the robot arm, and a sensor unit that detects an external force applied to at least one of the robot arm and the actuators, the control device, which controls an operation of each of the actuators, comprising:

a servo unit that generates a torque instruction to each of the actuators;

a torque instruction limiting unit that limits a value of the torque instruction for each of the actuators on the basis of a detection result of the sensor unit;

an external force detecting unit that detects the direction of the external force when the external force is generated on the basis of the detection result of the sensor unit; and an avoidance axis selecting unit that selects at least one of the actuators, on which an avoidance operation is performed, from among the actuators on the basis of the direction of the external force detected by the external force detecting unit.